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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MARGATE, RAMSGATE, BROADSTAIRS AND DISTRICT



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Issue No 44

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THE leader of Thanet council could be in political hot water again as he faces being reported to the Standards Board of England for a second time.

Clr Sandy Ezekiel is being reported to a standards sub-committee by Thanet councillor Iris Johnston after an incident at a shop in Margate last month.

The Tory leader and his deputy, Cllr Roger Latchford, are alleged to have tried to snatch a petition about council wardens from Cllr Johnston – who is a Labour councillor – at the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop, reportedly leaving her feeling intimidated.

■ BY TOM BETTS

Clr Ezekiel could not be contacted for comment by Yourthanet.

The committee will decide if there is a case to answer. Cllr Johnston said: "I can't really talk about it, but yes, it is being referred to the standards committee referral sub-group. It will be up to them to see if they take it any further."

Labour's leader in Thanet, Cllr Richard Nicholson, said: "It is not a trial or an investigation – it is just to see if the code of conduct may have been broken.

"It is designed to weed out malicious accusations or allegations, or to decide if the complaint

has nothing to do with the code of standards. It is to see if the case should go forward."

However, even if the meeting does not result in the case being taken further, the Labour group in Thanet says it will still press ahead and try to take the matter to the standards board on its own.

Cllr Nicholson said: "I think we will consider taking it further. I will not have this swept under the carpet, or anything like that."

"I cannot pre-judge what the board's decision will be, but in the light of what's been said I think there needs to be a proper and full investigation."

He added: "I think it should go to the highest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



NURSES HAVE THEIR CAKE

The 60th anniversary of the formation of the NHS has been celebrated at the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate.

Staff dressed in period costume on Friday, taking patients and visitors on a trip down memory lane.

Nurses Marie Houlihan, Christine Bentley, Pat Johnston, Angela Harman, Dorothy Boston and Judith King were among those entering into the party spirit by donning old-time outfits.

An exhibition of hospital equipment from the 1940s also went on display as 60 years of health care was commemorated in some style with a birthday cake.



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2 Special careers day for primary school youngsters. See the business channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



3 The highs – and lows – of this weekend's much-maligned 2008 Festival. See the leisure channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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CONCERN: If forces want to see the figure reduced, then they should hire more officers, not fewer

Millions extra paid to police

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

POLICE in east Kent have worked more than 100,000 hours' overtime in the past three years and the Police Federation says it is likely officers put in many more hours which are unpaid.

Figures obtained by Yourthanet show that in east Kent sergeants and constables totalled 109,297 additional hours between 2005 and 2008, costing taxpayers a staggering £2,411,195.

Between 2006 and 2007, figures peaked, showing the cost for constables working extra hours as £819,893, with £238,707.51 for sergeants. In the past year, costs have dropped by £90,352.74.

Overtime payments to police across the UK topped half a billion pounds last year alone, but Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon said the true figure was likely to be much higher.

He said: "I think there are probably millions more in unclaimed overtime hours that officers either use to take extra days off or they do not claim because of goodwill."

"If all officers decided to claim their overtime at once, then I would not be surprised if it bankrupted many forces."

Kent police officers worked an extra 2.9 million hours during the three years, taking home close to £65 million in additional payments.

Officers in the special operations

unit earned the bulk of that cash, receiving £10.8 million for 470,000 overtime hours.

The Police Federation of England and Wales constables central committee chairman Julie Nesbit said forces were in desperate need of more officers.

She said: "Overtime will be going up for the simple reason that officers are reducing in numbers."

"Forces across England and Wales are saying they will reduce the number of constables and the workload is not likely to be reduced so overtime is the only answer."

"If forces want to see the figure reduced, then they should hire more officers, not fewer – £400 million [the amount of overtime paid to officers in England and Wales] would buy an awful lot of constables."

Remuneration

The Police Federation's sergeants central committee chairman Paul McKeever agreed that more officers were needed, but he said that until then overtime was the only fair system of remuneration.

He added: "Overtime is certainly something that our members feel is the right way to reward them for the work they do."

"It is a tailored system that pays them for the extra time they have worked and I do not see how replacing it with a higher basic wage could possibly work."

"Policing is not something you can predict. With anti-terrorism operations going on all round England and Wales, it is right that officers are rewarded for working extra hours."

Ezekiel could face second reprimand

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

board possible as it concerns senior members of the council."

Cllr Ezekiel was reprimanded by the Standards Board of England earlier this year after an incident involving Labour's Cllr Doug Clark, the outgoing Lord Mayor.

The pair were reprimanded by the board after an altercation at the Mayor of Margate's ball in April 2007.

They were found guilty of breaking the local government code of conduct, but no further action was taken.



LEADER: Cllr Sandy Ezekiel

Care home fire leaves one dead

A MAN was killed in a fire at a care home in Westgate-on-Sea on Sunday.

The blaze started on the ground floor of the Hockeridge Care Home in Canterbury Road.

Fire crews from Thanet were called in just before 11pm.

Teams from Westgate and Margate were first to arrive and found the blaze had taken a strong hold. More help was called for from other stations in the area.

At the height of the blaze five fire engines and 40 firefighters were on the scene and specialist support vehicles attended, along with police and paramedics.

Part of the road was closed off.

Eight firefighters wearing breathing apparatus searched the three-storey building for casualties.

Twenty-five people were led to safety and paramedics attended to one casualty who was rescued from inside the building.

Two hose-reel jets and a hydrant were used to deal with the blaze, which was put out just after midnight.

The dead man has not yet been identified and one person is still being treated in hospital.

Investigators are looking into the cause of the fire, but a police spokeswoman confirmed that it was not being treated as suspicious.



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Is it a Careless Whisper or will George jet in?

Wham! superstar could be our man

WILL he or won't he? The rumour mill is churning, but no one seems quite sure if pop superstar George Michael is heading to the isle.

Fans of the singer, who made his name as the frontman of chart sensations Wham!, are hoping he will be joining the bill for this month's 70s Extravaganza at Quex Park in Birchington.

The legend may appear at the fundraiser for the war on cancer which is hosted by X Factor presenter Dermot O'Leary, who has links to Birchington, and TV weathergirl Kaddy Lee-Preston, although he is unlikely to perform.

Michael is in the middle of his North American 25 Live tour, but isle organisers are hopeful the star will jet back to appear as a surprise guest and lend his support to the event, on Saturday, July 19.

The evening is being organised by the Westgate and Birchington Rotary

■ BY TOM BETTS

Club and an insider said the megastar was boarding a plane back to the UK after a high-profile show in Montreal, Canada, and could take to the stage at Quex the following night.

He said: "I know he is flying back from Montreal, which is five hours' flying time, through the night, but I can't confirm he will appear."

The singer is then due in New York for a show on Monday, July 21.

The 7,000-capacity Quex show will feature 70s stars the Glitter Band, Suzi Quatro and T Rex as Rotarians look to wipe out the QEQM hospital's cancer care debts and raise additional funds for the department to put towards patient care.

A possible appearance by the ex-Wham! star, a known supporter of cancer charities after his mother died from the disease, would be a real coup for the isle's Rotarians and be sure to wow the audience.

However, only those with tickets will get in, with none being available for sale on the night.

The Rotarians were trying to keep the rumours under wraps as they feared the venue would be deluged with more fans than could be catered for at the venue.

The appearance would be a shot in the arm for the isle's musical reputation and could be a return to old stomping grounds for the singer. He has already donated competition prizes to the event organisers and contributed to their programme for the event.

In The Independent newspaper in 2007, Margate artist Tracy Emin wrote that Michael had told her he used to visit the town as a child and was still interested in it.

Chart-topping band The Hoosiers will also take to the stage at Quex Park this month.

The three-piece will headline the Sound Island Festival, where Scouting For Girls, UB40, Aswad and Elliot Minor will also play on Friday, July 25.

Gale: 'MPs wrong'

ISLE MP Roger Gale says his fellow Members of Parliament have missed a trick by rejecting tougher expenses rules.

He thinks MPs should have voted to overhaul Members' pay and reimbursements regulations.

The MP, who did not vote because he was on a parliamentary armed forces delegation, said: "We appear, with the backing of the Labour front bench, to have maintained a system of allowances and expenses that is misunderstood, misrepresented and, on occasions, misused."

Last week, MPs voted to keep their £24,000 second-home allowances but not to award themselves above-inflation pay rises.

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Julie Maddocks discovers if Manston takes the stress out of flying

Fancy a dip, Thomas? The water's looking just lovely

SOUTHERN Water has given famed Broadstairs icons Thomas Crampton and Charles Dickens a cartoon makeover.

The water company has turned the engineer and writer into cartoon characters to promote its new wastewater treatment facility, which is credited with helping clean up the seas around the isle's coastline.

The £80 million facility was completed last year.

Keith Jeffery, senior project manager for Southern Water, said: "We knew this project was going to attract lots of interest as a result of the many different engineering solutions used in completing the project."

"We thought the Dickens Festival and the Victorian water bathing party held in Margate and Broadstairs each year would make a relevant addition to the DVD as the work we have now completed has upgraded the wastewater system



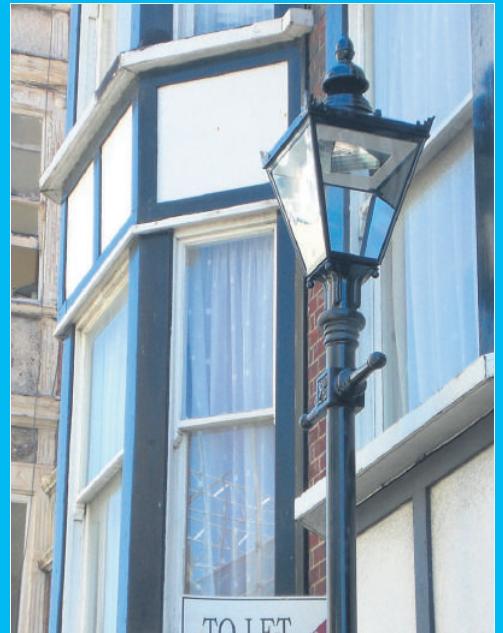
BATHING PARTY: Cartoon versions of Charles Dickens and Thomas Crampton enjoying an ice-cream on the beach at Viking Bay

and brought it into the modern age.

"We would like to say thank-you to the Broadstairs Dickens Festival, the Thomas Crampton Museum and the Dickens House Museum for their assistance in making the DVD and for their advice about history."

The pair appear on a DVD shown at local schools and in libraries.

A short version of the DVD is available to view online at www.southernwater.co.uk/Aboutus/videos.



LIGHTS OUT!

Bungling council workers installed a street-light so close to a resident's window that it had to be taken down the next day.

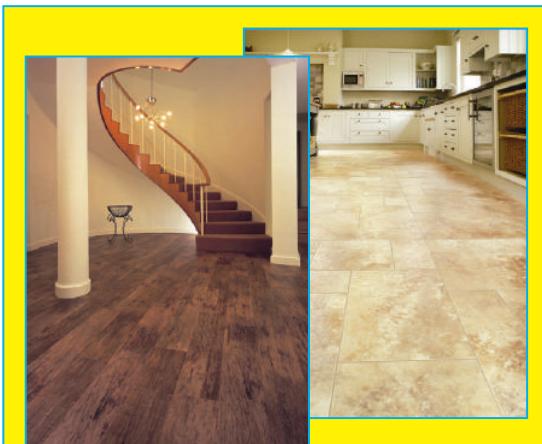
The lamp was put up on Tuesday last week despite protests from those living and trading nearby in Margate's King Street.

After seeing the light and realising its error, the council despatched men to take it down - less than 24 hours later.

Cliftonville councillor Clive Hart took a photograph of the light before it was removed. He said: "How they put it up without smashing the window I'll never know."

"People in the street were telling them it was madness, but they carried on and did it anyway. It was put into the middle of the pavement and you'll never have got a wheelchair past, either."

A Thanet council spokeswoman said: "The street-light has been moved and repositioned, and the ground has been reinstated. We hope that this has not caused any inconvenience."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Scaffolder's bad day

SHOPLIFTER Grant Davis was seen loading razors and toiletries into a black holdall by security staff at Superdrug in Margate.

When challenged, Davis, 31, of Northdown Road, Cliftonville, said he was on his way to a cashpoint to get money.

But his excuse didn't impress Margate magistrates, who gave him 120 days in jail, suspended for two years.

He was also ordered to do 100 hours' unpaid work and pay £60 costs. Davis asked for another theft to be taken into consideration.

Scott Neilson, defending, said the scaffolder was drunk after an incident where he injured both heels on a building site. On the day he was arrested he learned he had testicular cancer.

He said: "When he found out he went on a drinking binge. He had money in his pocket. He has let himself down."

All the way up to ten

TEN punk and hardcore rock acts are to play a charity gig in Margate.

The Friend To All Nations event will be at the West Coast Bar in King Street on Sunday, July 27.

The first band will take to the stage at 1pm with all proceeds from the £6 entry fee going to the Rowan Hospice.

Bands such as Itch and Tortuga will perform, while Humanfly will headline.

Also performing are Manatees, Club Union, The Fair Fight, Trial of Fifty, Chase Motive, Eradicate the Cure, My So Called Life and Attack! Vipers!

The will also be stalls from Bad Luck Clothing and Engineer Records, plus fanzines, vegetarian food and more.

For additional information, email friend_to_all_nations_2007@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.myspace.com/friendtoallnations2007.

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DANIEL COMES OUT OF HIS SHELL



Thanet council has shelled out £10 to one Margate boy.

Daniel McLean earned the cash prize after his estimate of how many shells were used to make up the lifesize shell ladies was closer than anyone else's.

His guess of 1,011 was just nine shy of the 1,020 used for each figure.

The sculptures were made by artist Anne Carrington and have become a popular fixture around the town.

She said: "Daniel did really well with his guess. The shell lady trail is very popular and it's a great activity as children get to explore hidden corners of Margate - and they get a prize if they find all 12 shell ladies. I am hoping Daniel will visit the bronze shell lady when she is finished. She will be at the end of the harbour arm later in the summer."

The competition was organised by Margate Renewal Partnership.

Rough seas keep skiers waiting for race action

BAD weather scuppered the first day of the European Water Ski Racing Championships in Ramsgate.

After Saturday's opening ceremony hopes were high for a day's racing on Sunday, but strong winds meant the contest had to be postponed.

More than 90 competitors were left kicking their heels after the day's four races were called off as the seas were judged to be too choppy.

Tony Williams, the British Water Ski Federation's chairman of racing, said: "It's very disappointing for everyone, the competitors who were keen to get out on the water and start racing, and the spectators."

Safety concerns were the reason for the cancellation as the championship judges decided it was too dangerous to go ahead.

Mr Williams said: "Safety has to be our first

■ BY TOM BETTS



TRROUBLED WATERS: Choppy seas scuppered Sunday's races

consideration. We took a boat out to see what conditions were like on the open water and it was clear the sea was too rough for skiers."

Organisers are hoping to push on with the event this week, with racing, street entertain-

ers, acrobats and a Continental market. Mr Williams said: "We hope that we'll be able to get them out on the water from midweek onwards and are still looking forward to a spectacular championships, with lots of racing to come."

The championships were officially opened on Saturday afternoon by the chairman of the British Olympic Committee, Lord Colin Moynihan.

Cllr Roger Latchford, cabinet member for culture and economy on Thanet council, said: "There's still plenty to see and do at Ramsgate's Royal Harbour Marina."

The land-based entertainment will continue as planned, with something for the whole family."

The European Water Ski Racing Championships run until Saturday.

For a full programme of the rest of the week's events, visit www.thanet.gov.uk.

All race times are subject to change and dependent on weather conditions.

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ATTACK: Canterbury Lib Dem leader Alex Perkins says Thanet council, led by Sandy Ezekiel, is 'run absolutely disastrously'



'Council has no money, so now it wants ours'

BY TOM BETTS

VITAL council services could be merged together with three other councils, sparking talk of a breakaway authority for east Kent.

Waste collection, benefits, planning, and leisure provision services could be shared by four districts: Thanet, Canterbury, Dover and Folkestone, covering a combined population of almost 400,000 people.

A multi-council group, the East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee, has been set up to look at ways services could be shared.

The announcement was made by Canterbury City Council last week, but chief executive Colin Carmichael has denied the claims the a new single breakaway authority outside of county council control is on the horizon.

Thanet council representatives have taken part in the first meeting, with a spokeswoman calling the talks "successful".

However, critics suggest the scheme will be a drain on neighbouring council's resources.

Cllr Alex Perkins, the leader of Canterbury's Liberal Democrats and a former council leader said: "If you look at Dover, Folkestone and Thanet, they are run absolutely disastrously. They've sold off all their assets, they've got no money, so now they want to join up and spend ours."

He questions why his council would want to ally with what he says are less financially stable districts.

He added: "Canterbury is excellently run; it is the only council rated 'excellent' in east Kent. We've shown we can run our harbour better than they can run their ports, we've shown we can run our waste collection more efficiently and run our car-parking better. Why would we want to join up with them?"

The committee is made up of elected coun-

illors from the five local authorities and will tackle issues such as managing housing stock, revenues, benefits, human resources and payroll, call centres, ICT, leisure trusts and coastal defence work.

The possibility of combining waste collections in east Kent by 2013 has also been muted.

Thanet council leader Cllr Sandy Ezekiel said: "Local councils face enormous challenges at present in containing costs, so it makes sense for the taxpayer if we can work with our neighbouring councils to reduce costs and gain economies of scale.

"The joint committee now provides a way for councillors to oversee the programme of work. I intend to fully play my part in ensuring that the Thanet taxpayer gets the best deal we can from these new arrangements."

However, Ramsgate's Labour county councillor Liz Green, the shadow member for children's services, said: "This means increased centralisation and decisions that get very little local input."

The scheme represents a double-edged sword of job losses and efficiency savings for the councils involved, according to Mr Carmichael, who described the joined-up future of local government in east Kent.

The intention is to save money, which Mr Carmichael says is vital to safeguard services as central government tightens the purse strings. He warned that job losses were unavoidable.

He said: "Inevitably, part of it is job losses, and many of the changes are likely to be at a senior level."

The Government is constantly putting pressure on councils to make savings, and the two ways to do that are cuts in services or increasing efficiency.

"Some of the councils in east Kent have already reached the point where they are finding it difficult to pay for essential services, let alone luxuries like tourism."

See what's on at the County Show

TENS of thousands are set to flock to the Kent County Show this weekend – and if you plan to go, we want to hear from you.

The annual spectacular at the Kent Showground in Detling gets underway on Friday, with a host of new attractions and displays lined up for this year's show.

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yourthanet NEWS IN BRIEF

Courtroom chatter fails to keep thief out of jail

A SERIAL shoplifter talked himself into prison because he couldn't keep his mouth shut.

Christopher LeHane, of Kennedy House, Ramsgate, stole five jackets from JD Sports in Ramsgate High Street by running out of the store with the clothing on his head.

Lehane, 31, admitted the theft but kept talking throughout the hearing at Margate court. He asked for three other thefts to be taken into account.

Jody Tyman, prosecuting, said the ladies' jackets worth £250 were never recovered.

LeHane also stole two bottles of champagne from Waitrose, perfume from Boots and five pizzas from Iceland. He was spotted on CCTV and later arrested.

Stuart Green, defending, said the binman had a row with his partner and went out to get drunk. Lehane interrupted, promising never to get drunk again if the magistrates gave him a chance.

Chairman of the Bench Christine Lippington said: "Because of your record we have no alternative but to give you a custodial sentence."

Lehane was given 120 days in prison and ordered to pay £461.22 compensation.

Ladyman praised for efforts on road safety

FORMER transport minister Stephen Ladyman has been congratulated on figures achieved while he was in his ministerial role.

The south Thanet MP's road safety figures show that road deaths fell below 3,000 for the first time ever in 2007, with child casualties falling by 7 per cent.

In a letter to Dr Ladyman, current minister of transport Jim Fitzpatrick wrote: "I'm aware you were Road safety Minister at the time and would like to congratulate on all your hard work that contributed to these results."

Ferry operator in lawyer's hands after father's death

A LEADING barrister and best-selling writer has inherited the ownership of Trans Europa Ferries, which sails out of Ramsgate.

Following the death of his father, Trans Europa's founder and owner, Denzil Dias, last month, control passes to Dexter Dias and his brother.

The pair now control the four-ship fleet.

Mr Dias is a specialist in claims against the police and public authorities, crime, inquests, prison law and public and administrative law.

The barrister also writes legal and crime thriller novels. Titles include Above the Law, Error of Judgement, False Witness, Rule of Law and Power of Attorney.

Mr Dias is also a Human Rights Lawyer of the Year nominee.

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Friday 25th 8pm

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Friday 17th

Jimmy Carr Joke Technician

Sunday 26th

The Big Ballet

Friday 31st

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QUESTION & ANSWER

BERNARD La ROCHE



Q & **A**

Bernard La Roche talks about the time he was asked to represent France as a racing cyclist, his views on Thanet's politicians and how a sense of humour is helping him adjust to life after a series of strokes

Q Who or what brought you to Thanet?

A I came to Thanet in 1981 as a result of the breakdown of my first marriage. My wife Jacqui and I come from Bexley and Bexleyheath respectively. Jacqui has her son Daniel and daughter Louise and I have Marina, André and Raphaël. When we married in the May of 1981 we decided to have a child and in 1985 Joseph-Paul was born.

Q You've had a series of strokes quite recently. How has it changed your life?

A I cannot believe that overnight I was turned from what I thought was a reasonably fit and quite strong man to a doddering old git overnight. I was told when I went into hospital and had my first scan that I had already had seven to eight mini strokes and had now had this major stroke. This struck me quite severely, preventing me from walking and talking, and I lost the use of my left arm.

Also, while having had my first scan, they told me I had a tumor in the middle of my brain which cannot be removed – but at least it was not malignant. This was almost three years ago and I have had a few mini strokes since then. I don't think I have lost my sense of humour, or indeed my ability to think straight – just a physical slowing down.

Q What are your hobbies and interests?

A I have always had a great interest in social history, none more so since I moved to

Birchington and came across a box of old photographs pertaining to this village.

I'm compiling a book consisting of 90 per cent photos called *The Chronicles Of Birchington And Around the Edges*.

Another hobby is stamp-collecting – I've done it since I was seven and have every British stamp from the penny black to the last set of stamps issued on May 13, 2008.

My other interest has been cycling. My eldest sons were named after French cyclists who had ridden in the Tour de France.

Also, I am a classically-trained musician and played the cello in the Dartford Symphony Orchestra for nine years and sometimes doubled up on the violin.

Q What jobs have you had in your life?

A Only one – as a compositor in the printing industry. I went to Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts and studied my trade as well as typographical design, working in the general trade before you were allowed to work in Fleet Street, for me the London Evening News.

Q Why did you start your Bernard's Barometer political monitor?

A Throughout my life I have been excited by the political atmosphere of the day and I decided to go into politics more deeply while attending different meetings.

I took a course at St Edmund's Hall, Oxford University. I used to be a Labour councillor in the London Borough of Bexley and have

attended parish council meetings in Birchington. Since my major stroke I have tried to keep my brain active by attending every month when I'm able to do so. I reject totally gutter politics and find Birchington Parish Council lacks leadership, the willingness to sort out Birchington problems and has neither the knowledge nor the know-how to do so. Or perhaps it just can't be bothered.

Q What is your biggest achievement?

A When I was a racing cyclist, and because my parents came to England from France before the Second World War, I applied for a French racing licence and one day I received a call from Paris asking me to represent France as an amateur in their national team of four in the Anglo/French Week in Newcastle in 1956.

Q Where do you see the future of Thanet?

A Over-industrialised with regards to plastic tunnels, the bleeding of open spaces (farmland) for sheep greed and the gross attempt by Thanet council to squeeze every penny it can out of the people of the isle.

Thanet council is so proud of ingratiating itself with the Chinese government for this so-called China Gateway, but the present Chinese régime is equal to that of Joseph Stalin's.

The Turner Centre and other projects created by the council must financially go shooting through the sky – and they're called the regeneration of Margate. My mind boggles!

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A look at how the NHS and pharmaceutical firms have evolved over the last 60 years. Search 'nhs'



Racing legend John Surtees talks to Tom Howard about the launch of Let's Go Karting. Search 'karting'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Is smokeless cigarette the pub trade's saviour?

■ BY TOM BETTS

THEY say there's no smoke without fire – but in this case it's quite the opposite.

An alternative method of puffing away at the pub has drifted into the national consciousness and is causing quite a stir in the industry.

So-called electronic or alternative cigarettes give users the sensation of smoking, even producing a vapour that can be inhaled and exhaled while delivering the nicotine hit, but are legal as no harmful smoke is emitted.

One brand on the market is called the SuperSmoker.

Its Ultimo model, which retails at around £78, allows smokers to dodge the smoking ban, which has now been in place for a year.

Inventors say the system helps people lead a healthier lifestyle and is much cheaper, claiming it can knock 65 per cent off normal smoking costs.

It is legal to use inside pubs and clubs as it causes no harm to those sharing their air.

Cartridges are placed into a pre-charged atomiser and users suck on it like a normal cigarette.

The firm says it looks, tastes and "smokes" like a conventional cigarette but has no detrimental health effects on others and doesn't cause cancer.

We asked 58-year-old smoker Graham Bates from Herne Bay to trial the SuperSmoker Ultimo on a trip to his local.



SMOKE-FREE: Tom Betts tries out the smokeless SuperSmoker Ultimo down the local

He said: "I felt a little strange using it. It does have a certain sensation of smoking but you have to suck pretty hard to get much out and it leaves a sugary taste on the lips.

"I used it in the pub and the barman did initially ask me to stop but I showed him the product and then he was fine with it. He said he had seen them before and had no issues with people using them."

Mark Bradley, assistant manager of the Prince of Wales pub in Railway Street, Chatham, said: "I've actually got one of the electronic cigarettes.

"I went to the London Bar Show last week and they were giving them out. I think they're brilliant and bought some for my staff."

Sam Griggs, trainee assistant manager of the Druid's Arms in Earl Street, Maidstone, said: "I

think they're a good idea.

"I've not seen anyone using them in the pub. We've only got a little garden and it normally gets packed with smokers, so products like this may become quite popular."

"It might cause a bit of conflict, though, as other customers may think they are real cigarettes."

Graham Moore, landlord of the Duke's Head in Sellindge, said: "I wouldn't have any objections to them being used here. If they are legal to use indoors and don't disturb anyone else, then that's fine."

Ian Gray, from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, has looked into the innovation.

He said: "We have been the advisors to all the regulatory authorities on this matter and are hearing about it more and more.

"Our main concern was that officers wouldn't be able to tell the difference, but it is clear if you are close to them they are not normal cigarettes. They are perfectly legal to use because, in our view, this isn't smoking."

"It is unlikely that a local authority would want to make a prosecution as the legislation is to protect people from second-hand smoke."

"If there is no smoke, then there is not really a basis for a prosecution."

Mr Gray said the device was catching on. "They seem to be using them a lot in the North. I suppose if you don't want to go outside, it's a real alternative."

"They seem to be particularly popular in bingo halls, especially among older people who may not want to get up and go outside and all that goes with that, such as collecting your coat."

Railway fare hikes anger commuters

RAIL commuters are braced for inflation-busting hikes in fares, with rises of up to 15 per cent on the way.

Politicians and consumer groups have reacted angrily to the "ludicrous" increases.

Train firms base their annual price increases for fares regulated by the Government, such as season tickets, on the retail price index (RPI) for July plus one per cent.

City analysts have predicted the figure will be 4.5 per cent or more, meaning a 5.5 per cent rise across most fares in January 2009.

But under its franchise agreement with the Department of Transport, Southeastern is allowed to add three per cent to the RPI figure for Kent fares, leading to big hikes for passengers in the county.

And because the company is not allowed to add the extra three per cent to fares in London, Kent commuters can expect to pick up the bill for the two per cent the company is missing out on in the capital.

Tunde Olatunji, Kent spokesman for the national rail watchdog Passenger Focus, called for the suspension of the plus-three rule because of the financial pressures already facing passengers due to the credit squeeze and fuel prices.

He said: "In London fares are not allowed to go beyond RPI plus one per cent, so the extra money Southeastern is allowed to claim all falls on Kent passengers. Kent is picking up the extra two per cent London is not paying."

A Southeastern official said talk of fare increases in January was speculative because the July RPI would not be known until August.

She said: "We received £140 million last year in subsidies. Over a year that goes down by £20 million."

"The idea is that as our subsidy decreases passengers pay more towards the cost of their travel because it is less subsidised."



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^ Warners Breaks – picture shown is Littlecote House – 29 Sep. *FB applies to stay at hotel only. Light lunch in cafe. – Applies to 20 Oct & 8 Dec

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Call of the wild on musical safari

■ BY NICK AMES

HUNDREDS of pupils from schools across the county hit the right note as they descended on a wild animal park for a day of musical fun.

The Kent Music Safari was designed to introduce youngsters to the joys of live music and give them a chance to experience a range of music styles.

Held at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, our online TV crew was there to capture the atmosphere. You can access the clip by logging on to our free broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Among the performers were the African Djembe Drummers, who set the beat for the days.

Kevin Richards, a specialist in African percussion, held workshops in which the children took part in traditional dancing and singing.

Kent Music School was behind the



BLOWING FREE: Having a go was all part of the Kent Music Safari fun at Port Lympne

event. Teaching development manager Richard Davenport said: "It is essential for children to be introduced to live music. It is such a confidence booster. Children who have been trying out the instruments love being able to play something. It gives them a sense of self-esteem."

Sessions took place at the mansion and in the gardens, where musicians were on hand to play brass, string and wind instruments. The visitors were shown basic techniques and encouraged to have a go. Schools from Folkestone, Ashford, Thanet, Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, Dart-

ford and Edenbridge were among about 20 taking part.

The South Kent Youth Orchestra gave two concerts in the grounds. They performed film scores including James Bond movie themes and music from The Lord Of The Rings trilogy.

Their performance also included the challenging classical pieces Danse Macabre and Weber's Bassoon Concerto.

Pupils were also able to take part in a walking safari of the park, which included the chance to see new-born tiger cubs.

Tricia Corkhill, from Port Lympne, said: "This excellent event means children from across the county can experience the music of different cultures. Whether it is African drumming or classical tones, they can also have a go themselves."

"The children can take on board the expertise of musicians while also learning something of the culture from which the music comes."

"The park is a wonderful setting for such a gathering which helps to broaden the horizons of the young people and introduce them to music

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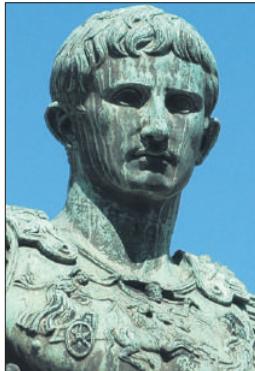
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they may not otherwise have heard."

It heralded the start of a busy musical weekend for Port Lympne. The three-day ZOO8 festival got under way on Friday with thousands of music fans flocking to catch the likes of Mark Ronson, The Hives and The Cribs.



TIME AND TIDE: Caesar's invasion has been studied by American academics

Tide of history pinpoints Caesar's invasion

JULIUS Caesar's first landing on the coast of Kent in 55BC could not have been on the days commonly assumed, according to academics from the US.

The traditional view is that the Romans carried out their first foray into Britain on the night of August 26-27. Their first approach was near present-day Dover, where many British warriors were waiting in battle formation.

So the invasion force is thought to have manouevred its galleys up the coast towards Deal.

But Dr Donald Olson, a researcher at Texas State University, said this would not have been possible

as tides in the Channel were flowing the wrong way.

His team says an invasion on the night of August 22-23 would have been far more likely.

It is acknowledged by historians that Caesar came to Britain with about 100 ships and two legions with a total of 10,000 men.

But as his fleet neared the white cliffs, lookouts spotted a large force of heavily-armed warriors whose spears could have reached the landing ground.

So the commander ordered his fleet to search for an alternative landing site which was recorded as being "an open and flat shore".

There has also been some debate as to where this actually was – but between Deal and Walmer is favoured by historians. During his writings on the campaign, Caesar mentioned strong tides, a full moon and an ocean current.

Dr Olson studied these documents and found that August 2007 had very similar tides to the same month in 55BC, so his team conducted an experiment, the results of which have just been revealed.

He dropped an apple off Deal pier which floated south-west towards Dover, suggesting that the Roman fleet could not have battled against the tide even though the galleys

were equipped with banks of oars.

"The Channel was flowing the wrong way," said Dr Olson.

Further experiments with tides during the month pointed to the date a few days earlier as being ideal for a landing in the Deal area.

The first Roman invasion never penetrated far into Kent and Caesar's ship were battered by high winds and rough seas.

They went back to France before winter set in but returned in force the following year, fighting the Britons at what is now Canterbury and in the hills behind Folkestone before crossing the Medway to complete the conquest of local tribes.

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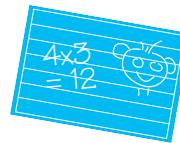
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HANDS ON: Pupils from around the region watch as scientists from Pfizer weave their magic at the jamboree

■ BY TOM BETTS

BOFFINS from Pfizer have been inspiring hundreds of east Kent youngsters to follow in their footsteps and discover the excitement and importance of science.

Staff from the company's European Research and Development headquarters at Sandwich captured the imaginations of almost 2,000 primary school pupils at the 15th annual Pfizer Science Jamboree.

Year six children from primary schools across the region were treated to a host of weird and wacky experiments and demonstrations, as well as the breathtaking Pfizer Air Show.

This year the show included inflating hot-air balloons, speeding rockets, mechanical birds and ping-pong balls travelling at 200mph to demonstrate the laws of physics.

Among the fun were youngsters from Holy Trinity School, Ramsgate, who discovered the fun of molecular slime, and pupils from St Lawrence College, also in Ramsgate, who

took part in game of Pfizer Deal or No Deal. James Graham, Pfizer's associate director for academic liaison, said: "Young people are naturally curious and love discovering how and why things work, but they don't always make the connection between that enthusiasm and what we call science."

The science jamboree is designed to show how science can be fun and our aim is to inspire the children so they're encouraged to study sciences during their secondary education.

"They're the potential young scientists of the future, without whom Pfizer and the pharmaceutical industry would not be able to continue the work of discovering and developing medicines to improve health."

Emily Robertson, 11, of St Saviour's CE Junior School, Westgate, was particularly intrigued by a number of the demonstrations and experiments on display.

She said: "I think the jamboree has been really good for the children to learn something new and improve their skills."

The two-day jamboree, which was held at the Pfizer Social Club, also included demonstrations by Kent Wildlife Trust and Thanet Coast Project.

BREAK TIME

Drive school gives head-start

PUPILS getting ready for sixth-form education in September are being given safety instructions for when they develop into the next generation of young motorists.

The Learn 2 Pass driving school is giving the youngsters from Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate a head-start in their quest to drive.

Many of the pupils will be eligible to drive in the next year and they received expert advice and tuition.

The lessons, on a secure off-road site at the school, formed part of the sixth form's induction week.

Other activities during the week include a ride on the London Eye, a river trip and a visit to the Tate Modern gallery; a talk about life at university; guest speakers

and taster sessions for the A-level curriculum. Head-teacher John Mathews said: "The week is a chance for our year 11 pupils and those joining us from other schools to get together before they begin their sixth-form careers."

"As well as a bonding exercise, we try to make it educational, interesting and useful."

Mr Mathews added: "The driving advice is extremely practical for our young men and women, most of whom will become motorists in the next few years."

"Learning the right way from the start is very important and getting into good motoring habits is essential."

"The instructors from Learn 2 Pass are experts and work very well with the pupils."

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Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is July 30, 2008.

Question: In what year did the French inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce create the first permanent photograph?

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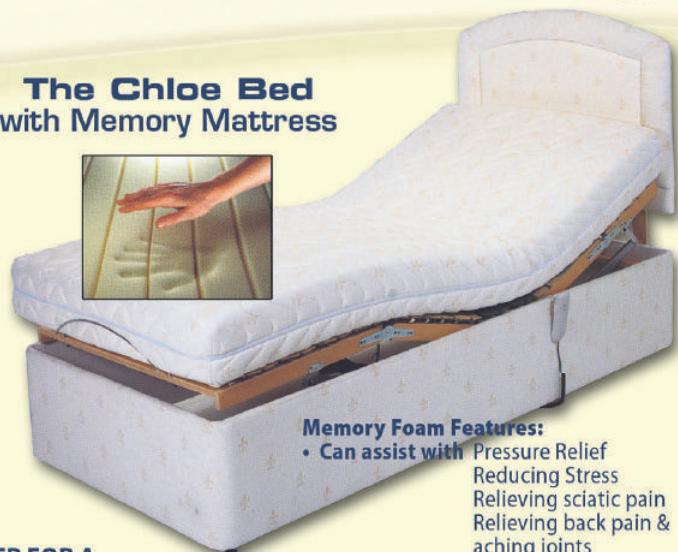
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yourletters

TALK TIME

MARK CORNWELL

The self-proclaimed rock'n'roll wannabe shares his love of loud music and entertaining the people



Who are you and what do you do?

We are The Suspects, a band consisting of Jez, Jamie, Rich and myself, driven by the desire to play music and ensure a good night all round. We're rock'n'roll wannabes – we go round bars infecting people with riffs, licks and the occasional spate of debauchery. You'd have thought after all our wood-bashing and axe-grinding we'd have hung up our instruments in favour of a pipe and slippers, but we're far too passionate about making a racket to consider such things.

How long have you been going?

Three years now. Jez [drummer] got to know me from my visits to his pub. I'd mentioned I played bass guitar in a band some years ago. I knew Jamie [vocals and guitar] and Rich [lead guitar] from work. We all wanted to play music. The band was born during a jam in my dining room – the rest is history!

What do you think of the Thanet music scene?

There are a lot of good bands and artists in Thanet, with a lot of variation. I think Thanet has a lot of potential where the music scene is concerned, although I do think there is a slight lack of good 'music-only' venues. The Lido was the hub of new up-and-coming bands and even had many international visitors, but unfortunately that is now gone. At least that hasn't deterred our local artists from doing what they love most.

What does the future hold for The Suspects?

We've just started playing around with some of our own tunes, so you never know – world domination? More likely a world tour of Thanet, but that's OK because we have the most loyal and dedicated fans around.

YOUR LETTERS

Council makes Bush look good

IN a typical act of spite against Ramsgate, the district council has decreed Ramsgate Town Partnership is to lose its permanent officer, who is to be replaced by volunteers.

Volunteers, no matter how dedicated, are no substitute for a full-time, motivated, professional marketing manager to pull in the investment and events that will keep Ramsgate buzzing.

Of course the council rarely notices we have a very royal, very historic and outstandingly unique harbour tucked along the front which could host a myriad of activities, as well as the desperately needed Water Ski Racing Championships.

And there is the running sore of the Eastcliff promenade that was supposed to have been opened by the end of May – and the lift that should have been open by Easter. The fencing finally came down and the lift was repaired and opened, just in time, literally, for the start of the waterskiing week.

Of course the council, because it is stupid, had the grass cut an hour before it removed the fencing, so now we have a long line of unkempt tufts.

Thanet council makes George Bush and his bunch of clods seem sane and competent. Not a bad feat.

And when there is a break in the Water Skiing Championships the crowds can always look at the wasteland masquerading as a building site along the front.

This kind of inane ineptitude beggars belief. But in Thanet we're used to it.

There is one thing Thanet council will never let us down on:

I'M TORY TOO... IF YOU'LL HAVE ME

I REFER to the article in last week's Yourthanet about Cllr John Worrow joining the Tories.

As the co-founder and former president of what was the Grey Independent Action Party, I would like to announce that, like Cllr John Worrow, I am also joining the Conservatives.

I would like to point out that John was not elected to a party political forum, as it appears Labour's Clive Hart wants us to believe. He was elected to the parish.

None of the councillors on the parish were elected as party political representatives, including John.

All parish councillors in Birchington are independent, regardless of the political party they may or may not belong to.

However, when talking to the media, it is the democratic right of a parish councillor to express his or her personal political views in their capacity as an elected parish councillor, just as it is the democratic right for members of the parish clergy to express their



TREND-SETTER? Cllr John Worrow

views in their capacity as clergy members.

Read my lips, Cllr Hart: "Our party disbanded months ago."

Charles Goddard
Westgate-On-Sea

I REFER to the article and letters in the previous two editions of Yourthanet concerning the adoption of parish councillor John Worrow by the Conservative group. If Cllr Worrow wishes to

change his party quicker than the seasons, then that is for his own conscience. But in so doing, he has shown no respect for the people of Birchington who elected him, and his then beliefs, to the parish council and he has betrayed their trust.

What, and who, he stood for back in May 2007 has changed more than once and is now so far removed from his original platform that these same people must be wondering who on Earth they voted for.

I would expect a person of honour, in such a position, to give the electorate the opportunity to decide if they still find such a person worthy of their vote.

While he may now be a member of the same political party as I am, I do not condone his frivolous attitude to the local community and local politics.

I therefore find myself with no choice but to agree with some of the comments expressed in the previous weeks.

Cllr Dr Alasdair Bruce (Tory)
Birchington South ward

it will always let us down.

It is clear to me it is time to change the way Thanet council is run before it wrecks the whole island. Its members shouldn't be left in charge of an abandoned pram.

Gerry O'Donnell
Ramsgate First

few years now, and at no time has the land under this project been agricultural. It has always been light industrial, concrete and a fireworks factory – oh, and a few horses.

If we were so concerned about the aquifer, why was a fireworks factory allowed there which had

Protestors are just tree-huggers

I HAVE been reading about the protests relating to the China Gateway development.

I've lived in Thanet for quite a

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a range of nasty chemicals available to leach into the soil?

The implications from the articles and protests are that there will be thousands of lorries crashing through Thanet – if the development went to the Westwood site, that would be true, but this point is about as close to the exit from Thanet as you can get.

Perhaps the protesters are all fully employed, land-owning gentry given over to hugging the odd tree?

Alan Kirkham
via email

We need to teach criminals a lesson

Is it not time that restorative justice was introduced into Thanet?

Joint action with the police and council should be brought in to help combat crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Police would dispense instant restorative justice on the streets when vandals are caught, while restorative conferencing will bring offenders and victims face-to-face.

Restorative justice is a long-standing Liberal Democrat policy for dealing with crime. This is already in practice in many Liberal Democrat-run councils.

Vandals should be made to fix things they have damaged or make reparations to the community by cleaning up graffiti and so on. For crimes against people, the offenders will be brought together with a trained facilitator.

Offenders will hear how their crime affects victims, while the victims themselves will be given the chance for closure and help from the

impact of crime. Restorative conferencing should help tackle long-standing community problems and anti-social behaviour.

For too long the feral youth of Thanet have seemed out of control – they need to be reined in, taught a lesson and repay their debt to society. One day these same youths will become parents, property owners and council tax-payers.

Bill Furness,
via email

Death penalty is vital for change

Now I think is the time that our society should think of returning to imposing the death penalty for proven murderers.

More and more, it seems, mainly young people in our country have little or no regard to the existing laws.

Despite what the so-called experts say, knife crime is up. We have to introduce laws that are much, much tougher, so the law-breakers fear the consequences of their actions.

When one hears that 37,000 inmates of our prisons were offered early release and turned it down, something must be wrong with our penal system.

In my opinion, our civilisation has not developed enough to enjoy and respect the freedom we have.

Maybe in another thousand years – if we are still on this beautiful planet – we will have learnt enough to know right from wrong and have respect for our fellow human beings.

Until that time arrives, we should reintroduce capital punishment, consider administering ten strokes

of the cane or birch, especially to the drunken thugs who beat and kick to death or near-death their hapless victims. There should be zero tolerance given to this type of crime.

We should develop boot camps in areas such as the wilds of Scotland or on our deserted northern islands – far away from normal civilisation.

We should bring back military conscription, to serve at least 18 months.

I can almost hear the military saying 'Why should we have to put up with these hooligans?'

Not all young people are out of control – far from it – but a little discipline doesn't do anybody any harm.

There is another way of looking at this problem. If we had proper laws in our country that people respected, our prisons would not be so full, we would feel safer and we would not have to pay so much of our tax in keeping these offenders locked up.

Criminals who face the death penalty would not offend again, that's for sure.

We would not have to pay their keep for the next 12 to 30 years.

With the high degree of scientific development that has taken place over the last 20 years or so, namely DNA identification of criminals, there is far less chance of the wrong person paying the ultimate price for their crime.

No doubt, the do-gooders will be jumping about and screaming their objections to my opinions, but until something concrete has been done to bring back discipline in our schools, homes and society generally we will sink lower and lower into anarchy.

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Rex Priggen
via email

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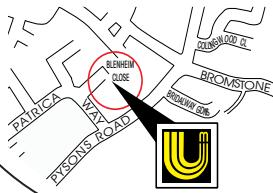
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Best showcase for our county



COME IN: Among the events at the county show will be the popular tractor parade and the shire horses, which will be demonstrating timber extraction, in the forestry section

PEOPLE from across the county will be flocking to Detling this weekend for the annual Kent County Show.

With a fantastic array of attractions for all the family, the show is the highlight of the year for many visitors and a great chance to find out more about our county.

From prize-winning livestock to the Garden of England's delicious produce, there will be much to admire at this year's show.

The rings will host a lengthy programme of entertainment such as show-jumping, dog demonstrations, ferret-racing, classic vehicles, competitions and much, much more.

The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers will provide live music in the main arena over the three days, while the Dancing Diggers will show off their amazing moves in an awe-inspiring sequenced dance.

Visitors can learn more about country life in Kent in the larger

countryside area, which will feature ferrets, birds of prey, otters, hounds and gun dogs. Discover the modern methods of timber extraction, along with traditional crafts skills in the forestry section.

Find out where your food comes from and why farming matters in the agricultural zone and see countless examples of Kent's impressive livestock as they are paraded in the rings.

The Young Farmers Club of Kent will be flying the flag for the next generation, displaying animals of all sizes, from cattle to rabbits, and winners will be rewarded in the Grand Awards Ceremony on Sunday.

There will also be fun classes such as fancy-dress, round-bale pushing, a mock stock auction and the It's A Knockout competition.

The Spirit of Kent Spitfire is back by popular demand to give displays on all three days, demonstrating the invaluable skill that made the planes unbeatable in the Second World War.

Admire the floral displays at the flower show and find out how to re-

create the stunning looks at home with the arranging demonstrations. There will be plenty of opportunities to stock up on mouth-watering produce in the food and drink area.

Householders can learn how to live in a more eco-friendly way in the new ecovillage, which showcases the best in environmental and sustainable living in Kent.

There will be lots of fun ways for children to learn about conservation, while their parents can find out how to reduce household costs and help to protect the planet.

With so much to see and do, the Kent County Show is an event not to be missed.

The show will be open from 8am to 6pm. Tickets cost £17/£12 for adults, £7.50 for children aged five to 15 and £43 for families of two adults and two children.

For more information, visit you can www.kentshowground.co.uk.

KENT COUNTY SHOW

Friday to Sunday, July 11-13
Kent Showground, Detling



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CANTATE CHOIR

Sunday, July 13
Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Broadstairs



THANET-based Cantate Choir will be raising their voices to raise money for the Odyssey cancer charity.

Cantate were formed in 1996 with just eight singers who were looking for a wider repertoire, and the choir has now grown to 18 members.

They have performed in public regularly under musical director Edward Greenhalgh and the repertoire includes secular and sacred music, from the Renaissance to the

present day. This means that concerts tend to be an eclectic mix of styles, and audiences have been treated to anything from Gregorian chant to songs from the shows.

Odyssey provides short activity breaks for adults who have, or have had, cancer. The concert has been organised by Hazel Jones, a cancer support nurse at the QEQM and Kent & Canterbury hospitals.

In October she will be making a sponsored 70km trek across north-west Vietnam to raise money for the cause. You can find out more at www.justgiving.com/hazeljones1.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7. To book, phone the box office on 0845 262 6263.

JOE LONGTHORNE

Saturday, July 19
Winter Gardens, Margate



THE career of outstanding singer Joe Longthorne could well be described as a triumph over adversity.

He attended 14 primary schools, but he kept fighting other children and did not do well academically. It was only later that Longthorne discovered he had dyslexia.

He is also deaf in one ear, but this did not stop him performing from the age of four and in his early teens he appeared on Yorkshire Television's Junior Showtime.

His 1981 appearance on Search For A Star earned him national acclaim, followed by his own TV show. He became known for his repertoire of voices, including an uncanny Shirley Bassey, and has shared the stage with artists at the Royal Variety Performances.

After being diagnosed with lymphoma in 1989, he had a successful course of treatment and helped to raise money for the hospital by helping The Friends of The Leeds General Infirmary.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £16-£18. Phone 01843 292795/296111, or alternatively book online at www.margatewintergardens.com.



OH! WHAT A NIGHT

Until Saturday, July 12
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



DISCO fans can put on their dancing shoes and step back in time for Oh! What A Night.

Led by the exuberant Kid Creole, a vibrant cast of talented young singers and dancers will transport audiences back to the party atmosphere of the 70s. Described as an unashamedly escapist and feel-good show it features some of the best-loved hits from the heyday of disco.

From the camp classic YMCA to We Are Family, the show includes tracks that are guaranteed to get the party started. Audience members are welcome to dig out their flares and platforms if they want to really get into the spirit.

Canadian singer Kid Creole – real name August Darnell – originally wanted to be a teacher before he caught the music bug. After changing his name and forming The Coconuts in 1980, he went on to have a string of hits such as Tropical Gangsters, Stool Pigeon and Annie, I'm Not Your Daddy.

Tickets are priced from £12 to £27.50. To book, phone the box office on 01227 787787, or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.



THANET LEISURE

Wisdom will be helped with just a little wine

SARAH Thorne Theatre Club is hosting a fund-raising evening at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs on Saturday.

The Wine & Wisdom evening starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5 each. Tables are for teams of eight, but single places are available. Take your own food, wine and glasses, although the licensed bar will also be available.

Places are limited, so book by phoning 0845 262 6263.

Find out more about the club at www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Evening of music from movies and classics

ENJOY an evening of popular classics and music from the films at St Nicholas-at-Wade Church on Saturday.

Canterbury Music Makers and The Friends of St Nicholas-at-Wade Church present the concert, which features soloist Caroline Jubber on oboe. Duo con Brio will be George Turnlund on viola and Ute Bühler on cello.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and entrance is by programme, costing £6 at the door. Refreshments and a raffle will be available in the interval.

These rogues will liven up your big night out

CLASSIC songs will be rocking a pub in Margate when English Rogues perform later this week.

The heavy rock three-piece will be playing at the Britannia in Fort Hill on Friday. For more details about the venue, phone the pub on 01843 223269.

More information about English Rogues and samples of their sound can be found on their website www.englishrogues.co.uk.

Use these pages to publicise your event

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or show publicised here?

Send full details of your event – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk, or by post to the address on page two. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before preferred publication date.

If possible, include a good photograph. We do our best to promote local events.

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Saturday 26 July
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BBQ every Sunday Weather permitting

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Dress as old school ravers

Saturday 19 July
The Suspects
A new up and coming band

PUBS

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Saturday 2 August
Suspects

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Adele

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Where's My Thing

Thursday 28 August
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Traditional pub food served 11.30am-3pm Monday to Saturday. All major sporting events shown on big screen and plasma TVs.



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Thursday 17 July
Blow

Thursday 24 July
User Friendly

Thursday 31 July
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Karaoke & Nintendo Wii
Games Night

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£1.20 drinks 8.30pm-10.30pm.

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www.escapemargate.com

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Sowing the seeds of success on the farm



RUSTIC CHARM: Art Brut play Lounge on the Farm on Friday. The festival offers a varied bill ranging from local heroes to heavy hitters

THE festival-goer's nightmares include torrential downpours of Biblical proportions, sold-out beer stalls and three-day-old Portaloos.

But the thing that keeps me awake at night on the eve of a three-dayer is the dreaded line-up clash.

Every year, festival organisers conspire to scatter my favourite bands and artists across various stages and give them the same time slot.

The result is that I usually see about a third of the acts I wanted to. And to make matters worse, I'm so blinded by rage that I can't enjoy

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

these performances anyway. Which brings me on to this weekend's wondrous Lounge on the Farm festival at Merton Farm, near Canterbury.

Barring delays, overruns and acts of God, none of the best up-and-coming bands or established acts I want to see overlap, allowing me to skip merrily from tent to marquee to cow shed without missing a note.

Saturday, for example, will see me take in Johnny Foreigner at the Sheep Dip from 6pm, Findlay Brown at Farm Folk an hour later and Mystery Jets in the Cow Shed at 9pm. Joy of

joys. LOTF's organisers seem to share my enthusiasm. A spokesman said: "Kent's coolest festival returns for its third outing this weekend and it's even bigger and bolder than before with increased capacity and new stages."

"Last year's event established LOTF as a heavyweight festival with a uniquely local twist and 2008 is set to take the extravaganza to the next level. Set in the idyllic surrounds of Merton Farm, LOTF's rustic charms will play host to 160 bands spread across six stages, featuring everyone from local heroes and cutting edge acts to renowned heavy hitters."

Tickets are still on sale. Visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

Simon's ones to watch:

FRIDAY
Art Brut
Black Kids
Lightspeed Champion
Glam Chops
The Lovedays

SATURDAY
New York Dolls
Mystery Jets
Those Dancing Days
Kitty, Daisy and Lewis
Onlookers

SUNDAY
The Coral
The Bees
Lupen Crook and the Murderbirds
What Would Jesus Drive
Polar Bear

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HATS ENTERTAINMENT: Jon Woodie at Sellindge Music Festival



SERENADE: Belleville play the Orange Street Music Club



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THE MIST (15)



Based on a Stephen King story, a violent storm blows in a heavy mist that envelopes that favourite Kite locale, a village in Maine. When the electricity goes out, David Drayton and his young son Billy drive into town to buy emergency supplies and meet a few locals.

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
PRINCE CASPIAN (PG)



The four intrepid children return to Narnia and meet an intriguing new character: Narnia's rightful heir to the throne, the young Prince Caspian, who has been forced into hiding as his uncle Miraz plots to kill him in order to place his own newborn son on the throne instead.

Fri 11 –
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With Keira Knightley, Matthew Rhys, Sienna Miller, Cillian Murphy

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BIJOU SCREEN

Angelina Jolie, James McAvoy

WANTED (18)

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THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
PRINCE CASPIAN (PG)
(1.45* Sat, Sun), 5.50 sharp

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(*) = STALLS £3.00 # = free list suspended

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in LA – with one of the locations just two minutes down the road from where Theron lives in Hollywood.

"The crowds love it. Here we were on Hollywood Boulevard with Will Smith joking around and high-fiving people."

"He was throwing trucks around on set, so if you were a tourist there that week, you really lucked out."

South African-born Theron grew up an only child and went to boarding school in Johannesburg. At 16, she travelled to Italy and then New York on modelling contracts before training in the States as a ballet dancer – her first love.

She only turned to acting after a knee injury stopped her dancing – landing roles in films like The Devil's Advocate and Cider House Rules in the mid-90s.

It was as an uglified serial killer in 2003's Monster that she won massive critical acclaim – and an Oscar for Best Actress.

She's set to return to drama in her next two projects, The Burning Plain and The Road, before reprising her role in the follow-up to The Italian Job, the ironically titled The Brazilian Job.

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Butterfly by Matthew Williamson smock dress, price £14-£16



ADAMS KIDS

Baby's legionnaires hat, price £5



ADAMS KIDS

Girls' sunglasses, price £5



THANET SHOPPING

Be dressed to impress from dawn until dusk

NEW Look says it has a girl's holiday wardrobe sorted from dawn to dusk.

Current favourites at the store include a long rainbow maxi dress in vivid orange, pink and green for £50; bootcut hula jeans in a variety of colours including white from £10 and embellished denim hot pants from £16. Tie-waist linen shorts in bark or flint will also set your summer look off a treat for £16.

Pop in to your nearest branch in Ramsgate, Margate or at Westwood Cross shopping centre.

Wii all want to be good sports on this concle

THE Wii is still the most-talked about system around and a Wii Sports pack is now £179.99 at WH Smith.

The pack includes the console itself, Wiim motion sensing remote, Nunchuck Controller, and five sports games; bowling, boxing, baseball, tennis and golf.

Visit www.whsmith.co.uk to pick up the package or look in your nearest store in Margate, Ramsgate or at Westwood Cross. Purchases from the website are delivered for free.

Bag a bargain with huge price cuts on these films

HMV is offering 70 per cent off many DVD titles.

Science fiction films such as Transformers (£6.99), War of the Worlds (£3.99), Twelve Monkeys (£2.99) and The Abyss (£2.99) are all included.

Chick flicks such as Pretty Woman (£2.99), Sweet Home Alabama (£4.99), Love Actually (£3.99) and A Lot Like Love (£4.49) are also selling cheap.

Also look out for stone-cold classics such as 2001: A Space Odyssey (£6.99), The Matrix (£2.99), Ben Hur (£2.99) and Cool Hand Luke (£2.99).

Head to HMV at Westwood Cross for a selection.

Step out in style with a bright selection of shoes

SHOES in Dorothy Perkins' latest sale include many eye-catching designs.

Yellow block heel shoes are £12, pink strappy platforms are £10 and mid-yellow Mary Janes are a steal at £15.

Basic gold and pewter peep-toe pumps are now just £7. Cheeky two-tone plimssole-style shoes are £7 in various colours. Black peep-toe platforms are £12 and ones with a bow, also in black, are £15.

Check www.dorothyperkins.co.uk, or see local stores in Ramsgate or at Westwood Cross for a selection.

Shoppers are far from cross in pleasant centre

A SURVEY shows shoppers have given Westwood Cross a vote of confidence.

The research, carried out this spring, reveals 99 per cent of shoppers rate cleanliness at the retail centre as good or very good, while 95 per cent feel it is safe and secure. Around 94 per cent value the pleasant atmosphere.

The findings also show shoppers are spending eight per cent more this year on non-food items than last spring.

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yourthanet timeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

THE BILL

ITV1, 8pm, Wednesday and Thursday

■ BY TOM BETTS

THERE was a time when life on the beat in Sun Hill made a refreshing change from the comings and goings of soap land.

You could always rely on cop drama The Bill for a good bit of honest to goodness crook catching with the emphasis on the police work and police station politics rather than the constant, who's sleeping with who nature of the likes of EastEnders and Coronation Street.

While the storylines could sometimes be a bit tame – I remember a lot of episodes about shoplifting on council estates – on the whole it was fairly harmless stuff and was a worthy addition to the ITV schedules.

These days, however, the show seems little more than a place where old soap actors and actresses go to die, or at least earn a steady pay-cheque before vanishing altogether from our screens.

I know everyone has to earn a living, but my enjoyment of the programme has been severely dented since this almost Dalek-like invasion reached its current heights.

Kathy, from EastEnders, is now catching the villains instead of serving the chip butties in Albert Square and it just doesn't feel right.

I tuned in the other day and was amazed just how many of the former soapstars are cropping up on the beat.

As well as Kath, we have ex-Walford residents Ruby (who barely looks old enough for secondary school, let alone the police force) and Irene, who, in an opposite manner, looks about ready for the old people's home.

Meanwhile Becca, from Hollyoaks, is



CHANGING SIDES: Actress Roberta Taylor is just one of many ex-soapstars now in The Bill

also getting a piece of the pie, though you'd have thought she'd have learnt her lesson after sleeping with her students.

Even those who used to be in Neighbours are getting a look in, not to mention Todd Cartty who had an affair with his own mum not so long ago (talk about giving a new meaning to 'copping off') before heading off elsewhere.

The soapstars' presence in the fictional London borough does little to enhance what's actually going on and you have to reach a conclusion that it's either lazy or opportunistic casting to net a few viewers the easy way.

It's a shame really, as some of the actors who aren't such familiar faces pull off most of the good work here, but seem to get little of the plaudits as they are overshadowed by bigger 'name' actors.

Oh for the days of faithful Sergeant Bob Crier!

Meanwhile Becca, from Hollyoaks, is

BY RUSSELL GRANT



YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

UNEVEN finances could throw your romantic life into havoc. You need to find a way to ride out the lean times together. Remember, your bank account isn't a reflection of your self-worth. When you don't have the money you can always find creative, inexpensive ways to have fun.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20)

DON'T be pressured into attending expensive social events. Your creativity will be rewarded at work. Putting a glamorous touch on a boring product will get a great reception. Accept all compliments graciously. You may discover you know less about a subject than you thought.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

AN unexpected expense could force you to put a dream project on hold. It may be necessary to come up with some creative financing. Getting a loan or grant may be a way around the problem. Falling in love with a spiritually-minded person is a distinct possibility.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 22)

DISCUSSING money could prove disastrous. The only way to teach someone responsibility is to have them pay for creature comforts out of their own pocket or they'll continue to take your resources for granted. If you're single you're likely to meet someone special this week.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20)

It's hard to think about a family problem logically. A certain relative who has always pushed your buttons could do it again. You hate falling victim to their manipulations. Retreat to a quiet corner when anger threatens to overtake you. Playing with a child can be therapeutic, too.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT may feel as if you can't satisfy your boss this week. It's probably best to keep suggestions to a minimum. You may get more satisfaction from a spiritual endeavour. A stand-off with a partner could bring some unexpected results. Stop letting other people make decisions for you.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

A CLOSE partnership is showing signs of strain. It's become increasingly difficult to talk rationally with your friend. Instead of talking, try listening instead. This will make you more compassionate. This would be a great week to take a platonic relationship to the next level.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 22)

DISRUPTIONS to your home life could cause problems. It's hard to be pleasant when your surroundings are chaotic. Trying to buy someone's affection could backfire. The only thing that will win this person's heart will be giving them your full and undivided attention.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

TRYING to take a colleague under your wing may be an exercise in futility. This person is intent on doing things their way, even if it wastes time, money, and energy. It's nice to be appreciated. An unusual work assignment allows you to showcase your artistic talent.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FANCY GOING DUTCH?!

Tall, blonde half-Dutch woman, 27, love swimming, power-walking and music, festivals! Looking for a lovely man with GSOH, for something special! Box 893230 **T P**

SNUGGLE UP

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food, music, WLTM a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 **T**

PILLION DOLLAR BABE!

Slim lady, 31, shoulder-length dark hair, hazel eyes, loves having fun and meeting new people. The pub owner, please call and leave contact details! Box 433131 **T**

FUN-LOVING

Attractive female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactful, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy. For a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **T**

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I'm a social, caring and sensual woman, 33, who enjoys having fun, conversation, arts, music and eating out, seeking a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 899173 **T P**

JAZZ FUSION

Single girl, hard-working, kind and caring, 32, brown hair/eyes, nice smile, very similar guys see how it goes. Box 901072 **T**

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265 **T P**

TAKE ME OUT

Single Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5ft8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have a fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941 **T**

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE

Bubbly, genuine, honest, caring Mum of 1, 34, dark hair, blue eyes, loves to laugh, seeking male for relationship. Box 433107 **T P**

P.U.T. THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft4, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107 **T P**

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782 **T**

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930 **T**

FREE AD placement, call:
0808 156 5339
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TAKE A CHANCE

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **T**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum of three, 37, fun-loving, great to be around, been hurt in the past, heart has been broken and needs mending. Box 908053 **T**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, blue eyes, likes socialising, in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **T**

ON A PLATE

Caring, 40-45, brown female, 5ft2, blue, redhead. Likes N/S, cinema, theatre, walks, WLTM male for fun/friendship. Box 895928 **T**

THE GENTLE LADY

Easygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437313 **T**

FEATHERED FRIENDS...

Large, bubbly lady, 37, 5ft8, like country walks, seaside, birdwatching, all music, looking for that special male for good times. Box 435619 **T**

SHOW ME HEAVEN

Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and dancing. Fairly new to the area. With a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **T**

DEAL OR NO DEAL?

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 **T**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sensitive woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S to share things with. Box 429882 **T**

SANDY SEEKS DANNY

Slim, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 **T**

ALL THIS AND MORE

Attractive female, 45, slim-medium build, 5ft5, big brown eyes, brown hair, caring, loving, honest, seeking LTR with honest, caring male to enjoy life with. Box 893367 **T**

LET'S TAKE A RIDE

Hi, I'm Laura, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLTM gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love! Box 440397 **T**

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeking love, fun male, for friend-ship/relationship. Box 896501 **T**

HUNK SOUGHT

Marlene, 48, blonde, medium build, likes 4x4s, the gym, quad-biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket, WLTM sincere youngish guy for friendship/companionship and who knows. Box 894117 **T**

READ ME!

Laid-back, single female, 46, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, walking, and chatty. WLTM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372883 **T**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male. Box 431557 **T**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Young-looking 40yr old female, 5ft5, long hair, single mum, GSOH, WLTM caring, honest, fun-loving male, for relationship. Box 441614 **T**

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friend-ship. Box 899694 **T**

ACTIVE ANGEL

Hi, I'm a fun-loving female, 40, 5'1", curvy, enjoy eating out and cooking to walking, looking for man for happiness. Box 894398 **T**

MAYBE I'M AMUSED

Young-looking/acting curvy woman, 41, looking for someone special, for nights out/in. Hopefully leading to something amazing and long term. Box 764781 **T**

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Golf with a touch of scandal

BY DERIC HENDERSON

GOLFERS only rarely get closer to heaven than the 18th hole at The Marbella Club Golf Resort, surely the most spectacular final hole on the Costa del Sol?

With a high, elevated tee overlooking a deep gully and the Straits of Gibraltar hazy in the far distance, this par-5 cries out for the drive of a lifetime.

It's a terrific course in the Sierra mountains, and it's just myself and a club professional with an unfortunate surname who happily blasts the ball a country mile.

Rod Bastard, 34, let rip with his 3-wood and his shot soared into the cloudless Mediterranean sky, before dropping and bouncing softly 300 yards up the fairway.

"Right," he said motioning with his arms. "Nice and slow with the back swing, and keep the head down..."

He is ribbed mercilessly for his name but retains a fine sense of humour.

"I must be the only golfer on the Costa del Sol who is on first name terms with everybody," he laughed as he poured the coffee on the clubhouse veranda.

The course, opened in 1999, easily compares with the best in this part of Spain, and that includes San Roque (Old), Sotogrande, the over-rated Valderrama, Los Naranjos, and Santana near Fuengirola.

Once darkness falls, bars and restaurants in this chic resort quickly fill up with the heavy aromas of Chanel and Lancome, plus a whiff of scandal and corruption.

But then Marbella wouldn't be Marbella without a touch of sleaze, would it?

Though it may not have the pull it once commanded when foreign holidays were beyond the reach of many, the city and neighbouring Puerto Banus, crammed with yachts, remain a great location.

Old Marbella with its narrow lanes of boutiques and gift shops off Orange Tree Plaza is especially good.

The Marbella Club and Spa Resort, a good half-hour walk along the seafront, is seriously upmarket and makes no apologies for reminding visitors of its enigmatic creator.

Marbella was hardly more than a fishing village by the time World War Two ended, when a flash German prince, the wonderfully named Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe-Langenburg, arrived to make his fortune.

In 1947, he pulled up in his Rolls Royce Phantom for a picnic, and



BEAUTIFUL: The view from the Marbella Club Golf Resort, with Gibraltar in the distance

intoxicated by the beauty of the place, bought an old vineyard and built 16 rooms as an aristocratic wayside inn.

It went on to become a much sought-after hideaway for Europe's jet set, Hollywood's finest, and even British royalty.

The open air Grill Restaurant on the terrace, lit by hundreds of can-

dles melted around the branches of olive trees, was the setting for a gastronomic experience like no other.

Lamb cooked to perfection and presented beautifully, a fine bottle – or two – of Rioja, and attended by a team of waiters who went about their business with a minimum of fuss.

FACT FILE: SPAIN

Time difference	UK + 1hours
Capital	Madrid
Population	45.2million
Currency	Euro (1.2 to £1 approx)
Religion	Christian
Climate	Mediterranean
Language	Spanish

Holiday details

Deric Henderson was a guest of The Marbella Club, on Spain's Costa del Sol, where double deluxe rooms start around £200 per night plus VAT, two sharing.

Reservations: 0034 95282 2211 and www.marbellaclub.com

Gold Unlimited package starts from £290 per night plus VAT for a minimum three-night stay, includes accommodation in a double executive room, champagne buffet breakfast and golf.

Deric flew easyJet to Malaga from Belfast, easyJet flights are also available from Bristol, East Midlands, Glasgow, Liverpool, Gatwick, Newcastle, Luton and Stansted from £29.99 one-way, returns from £51.98 (incl. taxes).

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Open Golf

at Royal Birkdale

The Open returns to Royal Birkdale ten years on from Mark O'Meara's victory and the emergence of a young amateur, now the top golfer in Europe, Justin Rose.

Golf's best known names including last year's victor Padraig Harrington* will descend on Royal Birkdale, one of Britain's finest golf clubs. Having previously hosted two Ryder Cups, the Walker and Curtis Cups, the Women's British Open and, on eight occasions, the Open, Royal Birkdale is the perfect setting for the Open this summer.

The Open is golf's oldest tournament and was first held at Prestwick Golf Club in 1860 when just eight players played three rounds over a 12 hole course. Today the Championship is a top feature in the golfing calendar, attracting all the top world players competing for millions of pounds of prize money.

The Price includes:

- Two nights stay at a 3 or 4 star North West hotel
- Dinner & full English breakfast inclusive from dinner on Friday evening to breakfast on Sunday morning
- Two days admission to The Open including the final day's play
- Coach transfers from the hotel to and from the course and return

*Omega cannot be held responsible for the non-show of golfers. Prices based on two people sharing a twin/double room; single supplement applies. Operated by Omega Holidays plc ABTA V4782.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Simple steps to help cut bills

FAMILIES across the county could cut their fuel bills by £240 a year by investing just £100 on making their homes more environmentally friendly, according to a new guide.

Save Money, Help the Planet, produced by the National Housing Federation, reveals how households can save and contribute to a greener society.

Investing £8.99 in a clothes horse instead of using a spin-cycle on a washing machine could cut the electricity bill by £70 per year.

And for under £12, a household can fix a sheet of tin foil behind radiators – saving £20 from their annual energy bill and cut emissions by 80kg per year.

Six energy-saving lightbulbs will cost £7.74 – but within a year will have produced savings of £42, and cut a household's emissions by 70kg.

Switching off electrical goods at the mains instead of using 'standby' can save £28 per year.

Even closing the curtains when it gets dark can trim £20 from a heating bill.

The federation's south east manager, Warren Finney, said: 'At a time when many people are struggling to pay their bills, and climate change is a worry, it makes sense to take a few simple steps to cut their bills and their emissions.'

Owners look to cash in on improvements

DESPITE cutbacks in other areas of spending, 57 per cent of UK homeowners have undertaken home improvements in the past six months or plan to complete them in the next 12 months, according to a survey from home insurer LV=.

This is for a variety of reasons from looking to future sales to making the best of what is around at the moment.

Some 15 per cent said they have made or are making improvements in an expectation of making money when the housing market recovers.

A further 14 per cent admit to improving their home because moving isn't affordable, while six per cent attribute their investment in home improvements to a concern about the credit crunch.

Emma Holyer, spokesperson for LV= said: 'Despite the challenging housing market and lack of affordable mortgages, we are still a nation obsessed with our homes and what money we can make on them.'

Landlords' faith in the market remains strong

Buy-to-let investors in it for the longer term

■ BY NICK AMES

LANDLORDS who buy property to let are increasingly resolved to maintaining their portfolios instead of selling them off.

And, according to the Association of Residential Letting Agencies (ARLA), just 1.3 per cent of landlords, who represent the biggest spenders in recent months, expect to have to sell up because of the market conditions.

Experts say this shows those who have a long-term investment in the value of property are keeping faith that the market will improve.

The ARLA review shows a rate of return on investment from the cash purchase of investment property of around 10.82 per cent.

Investment landlords report yet again that they expect to hold their residential property investments for the best part of two decades, up to an average age of 17.2 years.

This is an increase from 16.7 years in the previous quarter.

Ian Potter, ARLA's head of operations, said: 'Buy-to-let landlords are confirmed as prudent investors for the long term.'

'These investors understand the realities of the investment market they have chosen. This understanding would appear to be far greater than the understanding shown by investors in many other markets and is proving to be a bonus for the nation's housing problems. There is no one else investing in residential housing at the moment.'

ARLA's latest figures show that in the search for a buy-to-let mortgage lender, personal research ranks highest among investors.

This is followed by more than half going for previous experience of their lender, while slightly less than half look for a lender that is well established in the market.

When choosing a mortgage product, the initial interest rate ranks as the most important factor, followed by the true cost of the mortgage and then rental calculation.

A total of 60 per cent prefer to arrange buy-to-let mortgages through a mortgage broker, while 20 per cent go directly to their lender of choice.



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- No Chain involved



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- Reception & Conservatory
- Gargage & Sunny Aspect Garden



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- Large rear garden
- Off street parking



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CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04434

- Three bedroom terrace home
- Lounge/Diner, downstairs WC
- Rear Garden, No Chain



WESTGATE ON SEA £99,950

WESTGATE OFFICE MWP00987

- 2 bedroom flat
- Central westgate
- Outside area



RAMSGATE £156,995

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06185

- 3 Bed Semi Detached
- 2 Receptions, Garage
- No onward chain



RAMSGATE £169,995

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06329

- NO FORWARD CHAIN!
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- New Conservatory Offered



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CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04562

- 3 bedroom semi in All Saints Ave
- Up to date with DG, GCH & Parking
- Rear garden with decking & lawn



MARGATE £142,000

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04203

- Stunning 3 bedroom home
- Master with en suite
- Conservatory, Q.E.Q.M near by



WESTGATE ON SEA £109,995

WESTGATE OFFICE MWP01019

- 1 bedroom flat
- Share of freehold
- No chain



RAMSGATE £204,995

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06389

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- 2 Recepts, Bathroom & Shower Rm
- Much refurbishment done



BROADSTAIRS £339,950

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- NO FORWARD CHAIN!
- 2 Recepts. Great Location



MARGATE £129,995

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04529

- Beautiful 2 bedroom home
- Excellent kitchen & bathroom
- An outstanding first home



MARGATE £137,000

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04567

- Outstanding 2 bedroom home
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- Garage OSP



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WESTGATE OFFICE MWP00765

- Super substantial family home & annexe
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- Fantastic location, games room & conservatory



RAMSGATE £149,995

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06409

- 2 bedrooms
- Sought after location
- No onward chain



RAMSGATE £139,950

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06027

- Brand new apartment
- 2 bedrooms
- Allocated parking



PALM BAY £169,995

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04525

- No forward chain
- 2 Bedroom detached bungalow
- Garage, excellent location



WESTGATE £179,995

WESTGATE OFFICE MWP01063

- 3 bedrooms & a useful attic room
- Conservatory & utility room
- Sunny back garden & gfch



WESTGATE ON SEA £174,995

WESTGATE OFFICE MWP01031

- Semi detached bungalow
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- Conservatory



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RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06348

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PALM BAY £194,995

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04533

- No forward chain, 3 bed det
- Garage, off street parking
- Excellent location close to beach



MARGATE £129,995

CLIFTONVILLE MCP04530

- No forward chain
- 2 Bedroom end of terrace
- Off street parking, large rear garden



RAMSGATE £199,995

RAMSGATE OFFICE BRP06227

- 3 Bedroom character property
- Central location
- Good order throughout



ST PETERS £124,950

CLIFTONVILLE OFFICE MCP04449

- No forward chain
- Investment opportunity
- 2 bedroom terrace with garden



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- Ideal family home, lots of parking

.....OIEO £150,000



St Peters

- 3 bedrooms
- Large Garden
- Needs to be viewed

.....OIEO £149,000



Margate

- 3 Bedrooms
- No Chain
- Good sized rear garden

.....£145,000



Ramsgate

- Convenient location
- 3 bedrooms
- Recent improvements

.....OIEO £140,000



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- Ideal first time buy!
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- Convenient Location

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Margate

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- Good sized rear garden

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Minnis Bay

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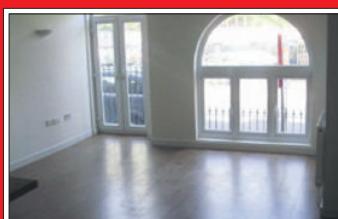
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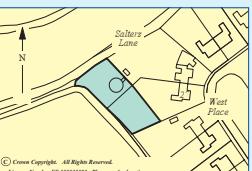
MAIDSTONE
Semi with Planning for Conversion
Guide: £220-230,000



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Guide: £35-40,000



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Semi for Improvement in Good Location
Guide: £180-190,000



GREATSTONE ON SEA
Detached Holiday Chalet
Guide: £15-20,000



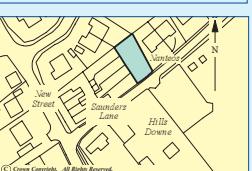
WIGMORE, GILLINGHAM
Bungalow for Improvement
Guide: £190-200,000



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Guide: £110-115,000



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Guide: £45-50,000



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Guide: £90-100,000



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Guide: £140-150,000



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Guide: £135-140,000



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Guide: £270-280,000



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End Terrace for Improvement
Guide: £90,000 Plus



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Building Plot in Rare Village Location
Guide: £110-120,000



FOLKESTONE
Corner Shop & Former Sandwich Bar
Guide: £30-35,000



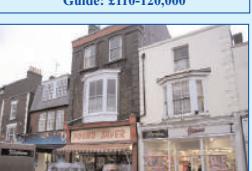
UPCHURCH, SITTINGBOURNE
Village Bungalow for Improvement
Guide: £150-155,000



FOLKESTONE
Detached House with Planning
Guide: £180-190,000



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House with Potential for Extension
Guide: £340-350,000



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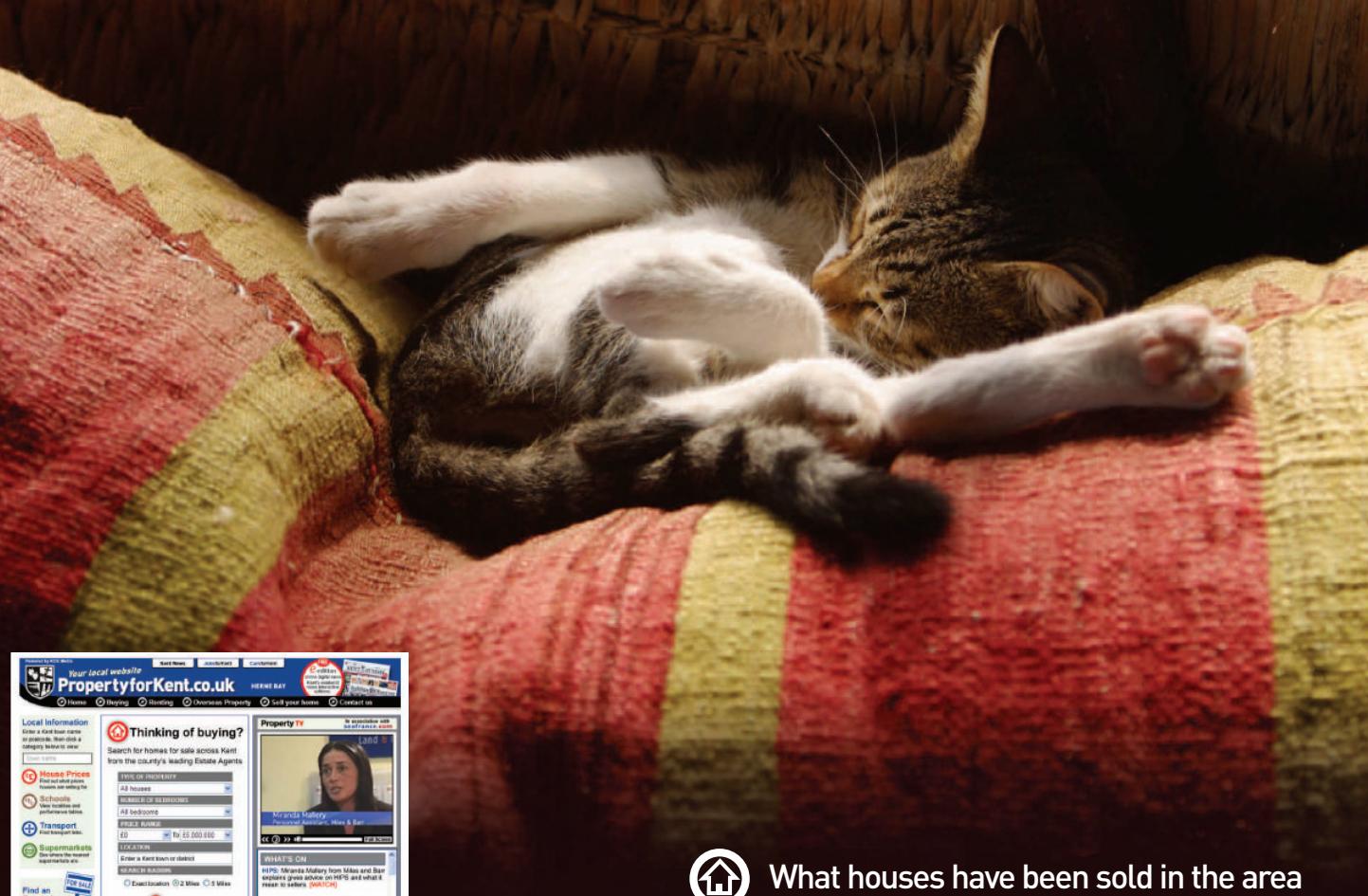
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MOTORS NEWS



Alfa Romeo returns to Maidstone via Lipscomb

CHARISMATIC Italian sporting brand Alfa Romeo returns to Maidstone this month after a two-year absence, by moving into Lipscomb motor group's purpose-built multi-franchise site at Forstal Road, Aylesford.

It is the latest phase in Lipscomb's expansion from a Volvo-only operation to encompass Alfa Romeo parent Fiat, as well as Japanese 4x4 brand Isuzu and the legendary Lotus sporting marque.

Alfa has revived through cars that catch the eye as much as they tempt with power and driver experience, such as the Brera coupe and Alfa 8C Spider supercar. The sporting Mito supermini (pictured), with styling inspired by the 8C, also arrives in early 2009.



Chill out and save some cash with cool Kia deals

KIA dealers across the county have greeted warmer weather with cut-price Chill 'specials' to help drivers keep their cool.

The Picanto Chill city car (from £6,995) comes with air con, remote central locking and iPod compatibility and emits 118g/km of CO2, qualifying for just £35 a year road tax.

The Rio Chill supermini, with 1.4-litre petrol or 1.5-litre diesel engine – the latter qualifying for £35 a year tax – is priced from £7,995 and comes with air con, central locking, front electric windows and 14-inch alloys.



Judges drive around in bloomin' luxury

BRITAIN in Bloom judges visiting Herne Bay this week had the space and comfort of one of the market's newest people carriers at their disposal.

Canterbury-based Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge dealer Dutton Forshaw loaned a Chrysler Grand Voyager.

Cllr Jenny Samper of Canterbury City Council, thanked the dealership for the generous gesture, adding: 'It's through the support of local businesses that we are able to mount such a strong challenge, which will hopefully see us through to victory.'



TAKE A PRICE WALK: Hyundai says that just 10 years ago a car with the same equipment spec as the i10 Style could only have been found on one valued at twice the £7,595 price tag

Small car – big ambition

ROAD TEST

HYUNDAI i10

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

0-62mph in 15.6 seconds – from the same 1.1-litre petrol unit used in the Picanto and two of the three models sneak into the £35 a year road tax band.

Interior 'space engineering' is impressive, comfort levels are good and this high-roof car can be crammed like a van when the rear seats are folded. Some of the textured trimming looks cheap though and the steering wheel feels low rent; as this is the most touched control, Hyundai should have tried harder.

There is no street cred in the styling either, but the big deal is prices from £6,495, air-con as standard, a potential average of 60mpg and Hyundai's worry-free five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

A £500 'price walk' takes you to the mid-priced Comfort model and the same again buys the almost luxuriously-appointed £7,595 Style flagship, adding electric windows all round, alloys, heated front seats, powered sunroof, under floor luggage box and rear spoiler.

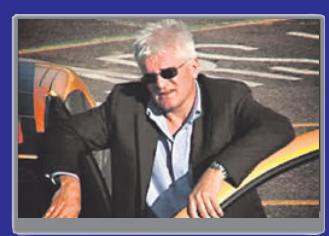
As Hyundai points out, 10 years ago such an equipment list would have been restricted to cars costing twice the price.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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AVEO The smart and stylish new Chevrolet Aveo features plenty of interior space, split folding rear seats and storage compartments for real comfort and real versatility. Choose between 3 or 5 doors, economic 1.2 or 1.4 engines and enjoy great little extras such as air conditioning and an audio system with MP3 jack as standard. The new Chevrolet Aveo, a car designed for life in the real world.

EPICA The new Chevrolet Epica is a delightful combination of sophistication and luxury – a perfect fusion of design and technology for drivers who set their standards a cut above. A solid build, a dynamic drive, and thorough attention to detail make it both a state-of-the-art machine and a vehicle of personal expression. The Epica is a superbly equipped car matched to a ride of sublime quality.

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (£350 for Aveo, £400 for Epica). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199 for Aveo and £299 for Epica. 0% finance by GMAC UK plc, subject to status, to applicants over 18 years of age. Minimum 30% deposit required. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in connection with any other offers. Offer ends 30th September 2008. [Chev49953] [Chev49953]

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Aveo 1.2 S: Urban – 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban – 61.4 (4.6), Combined – 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Epica 2.0 LS: Urban – 24.8 (11.4), Extra-urban – 44.8 (6.3), Combined – 34.5 (8.2). CO₂ emissions 199g/km.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S Panda mini marvel donated the chassis and running gear for the Fiat 500 cult car, underlining corporate confidence in the oily bits and bearing out high marks in reliability surveys. Nor should we forget that the Panda is a former European Car of the Year award winner; it offers five doors, acres of space, cut-price running costs and a decent drive and there are even diesel and 4x4 options – though both of those command a used market premium.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CHEVROLET MATIZ



INCH for inch, the Matiz was state of the art in terms of five-door compact city car design when it arrived as a Daewoo in 1998. Early 800cc versions were gutless and noisy on the motorway though, so go for the 1.0-litre engine if possible. Otherwise, the Matiz is a frugal and well-equipped, easily-parked car for local driving and surprisingly spacious and versatile, with a comfortable ride. Aesthetically, the original design is better than the 'puffed up' facelift version.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA PICANTO



KOREA'S Kia has become one of the fastest growing car brands in the UK by adding design and customer appeal to its reputation for value. The five-door Picanto highlights this rapid revolution, with its cheeky looks and generous spec; even entry level models come with steering wheel adjustment, remote central locking, ABS, front electric windows, split folding seats and a radio/CD player. Insurance is also cheap, all engines average well over 50mpg and used examples are fairly plentiful.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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2007, SKODA FABIA 1.9 TDI PD SPORT 5-Dr Hatchback Finished in Red with a Black Cloth interior, 5,300 miles	£10995
SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Estate, Finished in Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 1,500 miles	£10495
2007, SKODA FABIA 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Silver, black stone cloth, abs, cd, airbags, trip comp, immobiliser, 4500 miles	£7495
2006, SKODA FABIA 1.4 TDI PD AMBIENTE (HP) 5-Dr Hatchback, Silver, black fresh onyx, a/c, alarm, cd autochanger, electric seats, 3800 miles	£6795
2005, SKODA FABIA 1.9 TD VRS 5-Dr Hatchback, Diamond Silver, grey/black sports cross-tuck, a/c, alloys, cd, immobiliser, 28273 miles	£8995
2003, SKODA FABIA 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback, Grey, onyx picabo cloth, airbags, cd, pas, immobiliser, 52500 miles	£4395
2007, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 FSI AMBIENTE 5-Dr Hatchback Finished in Grey with a Violet Onyx Cloth interior, 14,500 miles	£9995
2004, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE 5-Dr Estate Finished in Diamond Silver with a Black Cloth interior, A/C, Anti-Lock brakes, 43,000 miles	£6995
2005/6, SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 T FSI VRS 5-Dr Hatchback Finished in Race Blue with a Black Cloth interior, A/c, PAS, Cruise Control, 11,000 miles	£13795
2006, SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9TDI AMBIENTE ESTATE , Satin Grey, 29,000 miles, FSH, a/c, e/w, alloys, CD	£11495
2005, SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI PD ELEGANCE DSG 5-Dr Hatchback, Sahara Beige, black eminent cloth, a/c, alarm, climate, c/c, 29309 miles	£10995
2008 SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 FSI AMBIENTE 5-Dr Hatchback Finished in Black Magic with a Black Onyx Cloth interior, 20,000 miles	£9495
2007, SKODA ROOMSTER 1.4TDI PD (70BHP) 1 5-Dr MPV Finished in Satin Grey with a Black/blue Stone Cloth interior, Diesel, 15,500 miles	£9295
2007, SKODA ROOMSTER 1.4TDI PD (80BHP) 2 5-Dr MPV , Satin Grey, black wave cloth, abs, airbags, alloys, trip comp, 4800 miles	£11250

Other Makes

2006, VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI 16V EXECUTIVE , met blue, fsh, full electric pack, alloys, 23000 miles	£9495
2006 TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 VVTI COLOUR COLLECTION , met blue, full electric pack, alloys, fsh, one owner, 16000 miles	£8795
2005, CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 HDi Exclusive 5-Door MPV , Blue, black velours corinthien bleu, abs, alarm, c/l, alloys, cd, c/l, 32295 miles	£8495
2004, PEUGEOT 807 2.0 GLX MPV 7-SEATER , Blue, 28,000 miles, PAS, c/l, e/w	£7995
2004, VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 16V DIRECT DESIGN , silver, automatic, full electric pack, fsh	£5995
2003, MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 3.2 320 AVANTGARDE 2-Dr Cabriolet, Jasper Blue, grey leather, alloys, a/c, alarm, abs, cd changer, 57550 miles	£18795
2003, FORD MONDEO 2.5 GHIA X 5-Door Hatchback, Blue, black leather, alloys, alarm, abs, c/l, cd, c/c, 43500 miles	£5495
2003, CITROEN C3 1.4 SX Automatic, 5-Door Hatchback, Blue, grey sirius velour, airbag, alarm, abs, c/l, c/c, cd, e/w, immobiliser, 18734 miles	£4995
2002, DAIHATSU TERIOS SL , 5 Dr 1.3 16v, Silver, FSH, 2 owners	£4995



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ALFA ROMEO

146 TI 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item, a test drive is welcome as well as any inspection, px is available against this red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtney Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2 1.4 ABS SPORT 5dr, 03/10/2002, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering, immobiliser cruise control electric windows, silver, 58488 miles, £5495, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01233 835355 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 323i, 693461, remote central locking, full leather, head restraints, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, radio, 17" alloys, arctic silver, 68000 miles, £5495, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CHARADE, 1.0 SL 5Dr Hatchback, 11,000 miles, £395, Chertsey Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d 1x side door white px 43.000 miles fsh lined, £4350, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5dr Auto (2007 - 2008), 05/12/2007, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser cruise control electric windows, blue, 13929 miles, £16299, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01233 835355 (TRADE)

GARRETT

TRANSIT 100 short wheel, semi high top, 88.00 miles, full service history, tax July, MOT 12 months, new tyres & battery, white, radio cassette, £1295 on 07855608376 (PRIVATE)

HONDA

S2000, - 2.0i 2dr [alarm], 1165649, sda s2000 2.0i 2dr [alarm] honda honda Tunbridge Wells drake & fletcher moonrock grey, 2005, 12000 miles, manual, petrol, 2 doors, 1 previous owners, grey, £17995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, 1.6 CDX, 2004, green, 44000 miles, £4495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, DENVER MAX Double Cab, b65infr, immobiliser, central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, metallic paintwork, air wheels, 4x4, maroon, 10545 miles, £13000, Van Zone Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446528 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

XJ6, cloth, f 1989, a well preserved well serviced part of british history, jaguars are now very collectable, bronze / gold, 160000 miles, £1995, Courtney Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

JOEPE

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CEED, 1.6, 2008, 2002 miles, £12495, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY, TDI, p, maroon, 100000 miles, £1500, kent, 07973715872 (PRIVATE)

FREELANDER

1998, met green with beige 91644 miles, £3250, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS300, GS 300 SE, 053461, remote alarm, central locking, full leather, electric seats, air bag, abs, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, climate control, electric windows, electric mirrors, 15" alloys, blue, 130000 miles, £2995, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, 2.0 SPORT 5dr [AC], 26/07/2002, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 62385 miles, £5295, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 SPORT KOMPRESSOR, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior full sport pack, black/blue, 57,000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

MG

MGT, 1.8 135 16v 2dr, 10/06/2002, grey, 44336 miles, £3300, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALTEA, 2007, black magic, 0 miles, £17995, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, 1.4 16V Bohemia Estate 5d 1390cc, g155kph, finished in sahara beige with black fresh onyx interior, head restraints, split rear seat, steering wheel leather and tinted glass, roof rails, onE registered owner, manufacturers warranty until 25/01/2009 or 60,000 miles, which ever is the sooner, sahara beige metallic, £6990, Shergold Garage, Gillingham, 01634 377444 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 54/2005, auto, two owners from new, 102k service history, air conditioning, PAS & electric windows, good condition, radio cassette, metallic green, tax December, MOT Feb 09 £950 0728215321 (PRIVATE)

TOYOTA

CELICA, VVTi, 2006, red, 20000 miles, £11495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORTIVE, 06 2007, 1.9 cdti 120 bhp met silver cd lined aircon/6 speed 24,000 miles fsh, £3395, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2 16V LIFE Hatchback

5dr, 54/2005, pas central locking electric windows, bright red, 15,000 miles, £3895, Chertsey Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

BEETLE, 1.6 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, 2001 (x, 01) (x) vr beetle 1.6 3 door hatchback metallic burgundy red, 47000 miles miles, £5495, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 274244 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.4 S 80 5dr [AC]

bl07wzd, climate control, abs, air bag, twin air BAGS, adjustable steering column, power steering, multiple airbags, automatic electric windows, radio, stereo, reflex silver, 8922 miles, £10498, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

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With a minimum of a CIPD CPP and previous experience in a generalist role, you will enjoy a challenge and be self motivated in keeping your knowledge of all relevant issues up to date, demonstrating recent personal CPD. You will need a driving license, willingness to travel, and an ability to re-prioritise a changing workload.

You will need previous experience of recruitment, all aspects of performance management, including appraisal systems, capability and disciplinary issues, contracts of employments, and all aspect of employee relations.

Closing Date 14th July, 2008

Informal visits and chats warmly welcomed with Lavinia Jarrett, Head of Human Resources on 01795 845207. For an application pack contact Recruitment Line on 01795 845295.

Visit our website on www.demelzahouse.org

Enhanced Disclosure checks by the CRB will be undertaken for successful applicants. Demelza is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

Registered Charity No. 1039651.

Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



Registered Charity No. 1039651

A disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant

Demelza House is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

11-18 Mixed 1400 Pupils

REQUIRED: TEACHING ASSISTANTS

26.4 hours a week) Term time only

Kent Scheme 3 (£13,619 - £15,440 pro rata per annum)

To support teachers in meeting the needs of students with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities across the curriculum.

We are a successful second phase Technology College, RM Pioneer School and recently named as one of the most improved specialist colleges in England and Wales. To help us accomplish this we are involved in research and development projects which are supported by good facilities and access to new technologies. This is a period of development for the school with a number of major initiatives underway.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss Samantha Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,

Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4ED

Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01303 277161 Fax: 01303 279342

Previous applicants need not apply

Closing date for completed applications: 11th July 2008



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Office Services & Facilities Manager

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At Churchill House we teach English to 2500 international students a year. You will be responsible for all office services, including staff recruitment and management, purchasing, printing, also buildings maintenance and security. You will have a good understanding of current employment and H&S legislation and will have proven management skills with an ability to excel under extreme pressure. Full CV and current salary to Rex Stickland, Churchill House School, Ramsgate CT11 9EQ rex@churchillhouse.co.uk



Committed To Conservation

Seasonal Gardeners

Temporary position, contracted until 30th September

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is looking for temporary gardeners to join our team responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of our grounds at Port Lympne Park. You must be physically fit and hardworking with good general horticultural knowledge and the ability to work well unsupervised or as part of a team. A valid driving licence is essential. Previous experience working as a gardener is preferred.

Working 40 hours a week, this position offers the successful candidate the opportunity to work in a unique environment where no two days are ever the same.

Working hours are: 8.00am to 4.30pm, five days a week out of seven.

Immediate start.

To apply please send a recent CV and covering letter to Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent, CT21 4PD. Or E-mail: personnel@howlets.net

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

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a home

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services, based on the unique qualities of each individual, to adults with learning/physical disabilities or long-term mental health issues. It's people like you who make them feel part of society by giving them more independence and a new lease of life. mcch offers a friendly and supportive working environment with scope for professional development including the opportunity to study for relevant NVQ's.

Part Time Outreach Coordinator

Mid-Kent
Hours to be negotiated (one year contract)

£18,239-£19,642 pro rata (pay award pending)

Ref 367/KOS

Closing date 18th July 2008. Interview date 29th July 2008.
For an informal discussion contact Julianne Garner on 07763 108191

Support Workers Supported Living (2 posts)

Staplehurst
37 hrs per week

£15,760-£16,603 (pay award pending)

Ref 363/KOS

Closing date 21st July 2008. Interview date 6th August 2008.
For an informal discussion contact Bill Wood on 07858 757288.

For further information visit or to apply on line visit www.mcch.co.uk. For application forms and job descriptions call our recruitment line on 0845 370 3037. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



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Previous experience preferred but not essential.

Pleasant, helpful personality is essential.

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Sheppey College

Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Lecturer Construction – Trowel Occupations and Key Skills Post Ref: 08/72
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Academic Support Assistant Post Ref: 08/74
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21st July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
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- Staff Discount Scheme
- Receptionist

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



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780 on roll

Teaching Assistant

30 hours per week term time only
Kent Scheme Grade 3 Points 7-11
 (£13,959 - £15,826) Pro Rata

Required immediately to support pupils with Special Educational Needs. Applicants must have a genuine concern for young people and should be able to support pupils up to GCSE level.

Experience might be an advantage. Flexibility, good communication skills and a sense of humour are essential.

For an application form, please apply to Mrs Angela Bamford at the above address.

Closing date 11th July 2008

Foster Carers Required

FosterCare UK requires additional foster carers for children in need in your area. Are you an experienced foster carer? Or are you just thinking of fostering as a new career? You must have fostering and/or skills in working with children and be prepared to work to high standards with a challenging group of young people.

We are currently seeking carers with experience of or an interest in caring for:

- Teenagers/13+ age range
- Siblings groups
- Children with high needs in relation to physical disabilities
- Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Young people seeking asylum in this country
- Young people remanded to the care of their local authority
- A young person, who is a parent or about to become a parent

You must:

- Have children no younger than 8 years old living at home
- Have a supportive network of family and friends

RESTAURANT MANAGER

required for
The Goods Shed
Farmers Market, Food Hall and Restaurant
Canterbury
£23K-£26K
For further details please contact 01227 459153
www.thegoodshed.net

Course Administrators

required for a training company based in Womensworld, just outside Canterbury. Duties to include telephone, filing and general administration. Two full time positions, Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm. Please telephone Jeanette on 01227 831840 or via email jeanette@amacsports.co.uk for further information.

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At Saga, we pride ourselves on having staff that our customers can rely on to offer a friendly, empathetic service over the phone: people who listen to their requirements with patience and understanding and meet them promptly and accurately. If that describes you, there's plenty to look forward to here.

Firstly, you'll become a valued member of a supportive team who'll go out of their way to make you feel at home from day one. Then there's excellent training that helps you build the skills to provide a superb service to our customers, as well as spot sales opportunities and exceed every target you're set.

Last but definitely not least, there are the generous benefits on offer – all geared towards helping you enjoy a better lifestyle. These include an active social club, subsidised restaurant, medical insurance, pension, excellent career development opportunities, concessions for holidays and travel, and much more. So if you have the qualities we're after and are happy to work in an ever-changing and fast-paced environment, then you could be just what we're looking for.

To apply, please send your application form quoting reference SVS224/KOS, to Clare Dickinson, HR Officer, Saga Services Limited, The Saga Contact Centre, Eurokent Business Park, Haine Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5AE or e-mail: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 18 July 2008.

saga.co.uk



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If you want to work from home, make a difference to a young person's life and are looking for a rewarding role, then come along to one of our information sessions. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to find out more about fostering.

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BSF Project Managers

Starting salary £35,370, with progression through contribution related pay to £40,705 pa
Brenchley House, Maidstone

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Team is part of a dynamic team responsible for delivering the Kent BSF and Academies programme for Kent County Council.

Kent County Council was successful in obtaining funding through the national BSF programme which will see investment through a mix of new build and refurbishment of all secondary schools in Kent. For the purposes of delivering the programme KCC is currently undergoing a procurement process to select a private sector partner to deliver all of the construction projects to the secondary estate in Gravesend, Thanet and Swale. Following the conclusion of the first procurement, KCC intends to procure a further two partners who will deliver to the rest of the County.

We are seeking to appoint two Project Managers (Site Liaison/ Construction) to join this high profile team. You will be responsible for providing input during the procurement and lead up to construction works, management of the interface between the Contractor, KCC and schools during the construction phase, decant and building handover.

You will work with the existing KCC BSF/PFI and Academies Team, its external advisors, schools and other local stakeholders, as well as with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) to ensure that local proposals facilitate delivery of the national objectives.

You will have excellent organisational, communication and negotiation skills. You will need to demonstrate motivation, and the ability to work on your own or as part of a team. Previous experience of working with or within a construction environment as well as a current understanding of the Education sector is essential, with previous experience in procurement or the public sector an advantage.

Ref: CFHE/08/0283

Closing date: **Midday, 24th July 2008.**

Interview date: **12th August 2008.**

Westwood Centre, Margate

All posts are fixed term until August 2009

Team Leader

Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 pa

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues?

If so, you will be a team leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, joining our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The primary function of this role is to manage and support the Kent Safe Schools Alternative Curriculum Provision at the Westwood Centre. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

This potentially challenging yet highly rewarding role will encourage an organised, innovative and young person's focussed approach to education, working effectively with the curriculum to provide core subjects, vocational experiences and the development of an inclusive approach to wider supportive services and the extended schools agenda.

The role will include working alongside staff, agencies, schools, communities, parents and young people to identify opportunities to establish robust working partnerships. You will manage the provision of full time education for the young people and also have a shared responsibility for supporting other staff in a similar area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

Ref: CFHE/08/0273

Project Officer

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pa pro-rata term time

5 posts available with the possibility of one post becoming an 18.5 hour job share between two people

Do you have experience of working in an innovative way and with a committed approach toward the education of young people?

We are seeking candidates who are keen to rise to the daily challenges in providing high quality and innovative education programmes through a broad spectrum of subjects and experiences.

The main elements of this role are to directly design and deliver engaging and exciting educational programmes and sessions. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

These challenging, yet highly rewarding roles will need an organised and innovative person who is focussed to education. You will work effectively with the curriculum to provide core subjects, vocational experiences and the development of an inclusive approach to wider supportive services and the extended schools agenda. An open approach to deliver across a spectrum of subject areas is preferable and may include the design and delivery of schemes of work based around our dedicated areas of specialism that include: Motor Vehicle Engineering, Construction, IT, Carpentry, Art and Music.

The role will include working alongside other staff members, agencies, schools, communities and parents to maximise young peoples learning opportunities and to establish robust working partnerships.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

Ref: CFHE/08/0271

Project Assistant

Starting salary £13,959, with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 pa pro-rata term time

4 Posts with the possibility of an 18.5 hour job share for the equivalent of one post

Kent Safe Schools have successfully secured a bid to support permanently excluded young people through alternative education programmes.

The main function of this role is to work as part of a wider staff team supporting the direct learning and education of the young people within the Kent Safe Schools Alternative Curriculum Provision at the Westwood Centre. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues and who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

You will be a flexible Project Assistant with commitment, vision and passion who can be a key part of the staff team.

Additionally, you will support the delivery of a broad-based curriculum aimed at targeting up to 50 young people at Key Stage 4, complimenting other professional disciplines.

The aims of the teams' work will be the maintenance and development of young people towards recognised qualifications and learning outcomes.

Ref: CFHE/08/0273

Closing date for all three posts:

Midday, 18th July 2008.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

Please quote relevant reference number.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

BECOME A MULTI-SKILLED ENERGY ASSESSOR

By law trained Energy Assessors will need to carry out an estimated 3 million Energy Assessments in the year from this October - 200,000 commercial buildings, 1.8 million homes being rented and 1.1 million being sold (2.1m in normal house sale years).

Applicants are therefore required to train **now** - no previous surveying experience is required - at our London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester training centres which are approved by the Government-appointed Awarding Body for the Built Environment. The subsidised training is taken in separately bookable 1-week modules usually around current commitments and you qualify as a multi-skilled Domestic and Commercial Energy Assessor, Flood Risk Assessor and Home Inspector.

Homes now being sold already require Assessments with average fees of £70 being paid to our Assessors - fees for the 1.8m rented homes from October are expected to be similar. Fees for currently optional Home Inspections average £250 - commercial Assessments are expected to be higher. Up to 15 domestic Assessments or 6 commercial Assessments or Home Inspections are estimated to be carried out in a week, subject to size of properties and supply. As well as thousands of Assessors carrying out Energy Assessments, 7500 Home Inspectors will be needed upon Government making Home Inspections compulsory - less than a thousand are currently certified.

Regardless of the 'credit crunch' these new 'green' laws and 3 million Assessments are creating a rapidly expanding new industry which you could join, subject to interview and Aptitude test. So apply now for subsidised training and to start a new career carrying out this environmentally important work with potential multiple income stream opportunities.



Ring 020 8335 1700

Ref: HKO28E

The Towers School

Faversham Road, Kentennington
Ashford, Kent TN24 9AL
Tel: 01233 634171 • Fax: 01233 628326



11-19 Kent High School
1400 Students on roll (320+ in 6th Form)

Teacher / Instructor of Construction Required for September 2008 • Salary negotiable

We are seeking a teacher / instructor with the ability and interest to deliver NVQ / BTEC / New diploma qualifications for students aged 14-19 years. We will provide an extremely supportive environment for you to support students in realising their potential.

Why this job might be right for you:-

- Joining a school with a good Ofsted report at all Key Stages including Post 16 education.
- Excellent provision for students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13
- Purpose built provision for Construction
- Attractive salary and job security
- Guaranteed commitment and opportunities to develop

For an informal visit to the school please contact Justin Davey on 01233 634171 ex 227.

Applications are by CV and covering letter by email on admin@towers.kent.sch.uk on 01233 628326 or post. Please mark for the attention of Mrs Kyla Weedon. All applications should be received by Monday, 14th July 2008.



Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people. The organisation provides services from over twenty service bases across Kent, Surrey and the London boroughs, employs approximately 300 paid and unpaid staff and has an annual income exceeding £10.5 million.

REF: 495 - RECEPTIONIST - FAVERSHAM

Salary: £14,492- £16,217

(SCP 12 - 17) pay award pending

37 hours per week

You will be the first point of contact to all callers, visitors and service users to KCA's Head Office, whether by telephone, e-mail, post or in person, ensuring they are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

As a key member of the Head Office Administration team you will have top MS Office skills, a 'can do' approach, and be involved in a range of administrative tasks. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts.

For an application form please contact KCA(UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT, Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

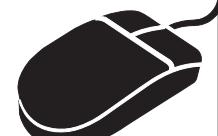
Closing date: **18th July 2008**

Interview date: **29th July 2008**

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

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ARCHITECTS AND SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIANS

This dynamic Practice is seeking bright and enthusiastic team players with excellent design and technical skills to join an established team, working on a variety of very interesting ongoing projects. Successful candidates will need to be proficient in AutoCAD and Photoshop programs, together with the dedication and desire to exceed expectations.

Salary range will be by negotiation

To apply, please send your CV to Hannah Everest at the above address.

achievement employability experience development



Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Curriculum Co-ordinator Mechanical Engineering – First and National Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering Post Ref: 08/77

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based Post Ref: 07/04

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Hospitality and Catering Post Ref: 04/154

27.75 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Access to HE Post Ref: 08/97

18.5 hrs per week, 2 years fixed term.

Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer in Journalism Post Ref: 08/55

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Pre 16 Tutor Post Ref: 07/16

18.5 hrs per week, fixed term post ending 31 August 2010.

Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers in Animal Care and Land Based Studies Post Ref: S/AL

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers in Equine Studies Post Ref: S/EQ

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based Post Ref: TD13

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT/ Retail & Commercial/ Leisure & Tourism/ Catering/ Business & Law Post Ref: 08/66

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Learning Resources Assistant Post Ref: LRCA1

7.5 hrs per week, 1 year fixed term, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Adult Learning Grant Assistant Post Ref: EMA

18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks per year term time. Fixed term to 31 August 2009.

Salary starting £14,535 pro rata per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Agriculture/ Horticulture and Animal Care Post Ref: 04/118

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Resource Assistant Animal Care and Land Based Post Ref: 06/08

18.5 hrs per week, salary range starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Assistant Head Chef Post Ref: RC01

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21st July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



Business Development Manager

Contract Security Services Ltd

We are seeking a driven relationship manager to support our continued expansion throughout Southern England. The successful candidate will ideally have good experience within the banking industry, be able to work on their own initiative but also as a team. Strongly developed sales/relationship management experience is essential together with excellent negotiation, communication and presentation skills.

In return we offer a competitive remuneration package with OTE c. £35,000 plus company car/benefits. If you are looking for the challenge please send your CV and covering letter to jamesh@contractsecurity.co.uk

We are also seeking **Security Officers/Multi-drop drivers** based at our depot in Aylesford, Kent. SIA Licensed officers welcome although full SIA training will be given. Must have a full clean driving licence, £7.31 - £8.01 per hour, min. 40 hours per week Monday - Sunday. Immediate start would be an advantage.

If you are interested in a career in the security industry send your CV to job@contractsecurity.co.uk



Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College of Higher & Further Education is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its existing reputation.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit professionals to help deliver excellence in the following areas:



Lecturer in Travel & Tourism

Ref: JU01

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

An opportunity has arisen for a Lecturer in Travel & Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a relevant degree, ideally in Tourism and will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe. The department will also consider applications from candidates who would prefer part-time hours therefore please specify clearly on your application form.

Lecturer in Engineering

Ref: JU02

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

You will have proven experience in Engineering and be able to teach across a range of levels from Foundation/GCSE to Higher National. The successful candidate will have an HNC or Degree in an Engineering subject. Candidates should hold or be willing to work towards an approved teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Public Services

Ref: JU03

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

We are seeking to recruit a Lecturer to teach on a range of BTEC and school links programmes. The successful candidate will have experience in Public Services and have a recognised teaching qualification. The department will also consider applications from candidates without a teaching qualification although this will be reflected in the grading.

Additional Learning Support Tutor

Ref: JU04

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The successful candidate will work across all our College campuses and will have a recognised teaching qualification or be working towards an appropriate qualification. The candidate will be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge in supporting learners with disabilities.

Lecturer in Plumbing

Ref: JU05

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The ideal candidate will have current knowledge and experience of the Building Services Industry and have a relevant trade qualification in plumbing. A recognised teaching qualification would be advantageous.

Technician in Engineering

Ref: JU06

Support Grade B: £15,057 - £18,534

As a member of the Engineering & Construction Crafts team you will undertake all support duties associated with the Engineering workshops as directed by teaching or instructing staff. You will have experience working in an Engineering environment and/or have an HNC in Engineering.

Sessional Lecturers

Ref: JU07

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

The College is currently looking to recruit dynamic and enthusiastic Sessional Lecturers in Health Care, Child Care & Public Services to deliver programmes from foundation to level 3. Previous experience in relevant field essential and teaching experience would be advantageous.

Sessional Lecturer in Psychology

Ref: JU08

£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

We are looking to recruit a Sessional Lecturer in Psychology to teach on a range of courses and participate in the development of Psychology. Applicants must have a relevant degree in Psychology.

Information, Advice & Guidance Advisor - Level 4

Ref: JU09

Salary: £23,669 - £30,027

Learner Advisor – Level 3

Ref: JU10

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199

The above posts are an exciting opportunity for you to join our IAG team working across all College Campuses to actively support prospective and current learners to achieve their full academic and personal potential. For further details please refer to job description.

Examinations Assistant

Ref: JU11

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994

As the main point of contact for at least one Awarding Body you will provide administrative support for examinations in liaison with the examinations co-ordinator. You will have experience using databases and Microsoft Word and Excel.

Learning Support Assistant

Ref: JU12

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199

As a Learning Support Assistant you will support learners with challenging behaviour and learning disabilities. Previous experience would be advantageous.

Caretaker (5 month fixed term contract 20 hours per week)

Ref: JU13

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199 pro-rata

As a member of the Campus Management Team you will help provide a clean and safe environment for users of the College's buildings and grounds and assist in other general campus management duties as required.

Kitchen Assistant

Ref: JU14

(27 hours per week)

Salary: £12,245 - £13,004 pro-rata

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Closing date: Friday, 18 July 2008

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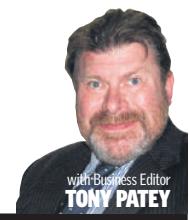
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Child victims to benefit from new claims ruling

A COURT of Appeal decision allowing child victims of uninsured hit and run drivers to bring a claim up until their 21st birthday has been welcomed by Kent lawyer Neille Ryan.

Prior to the new ruling the Motor Insurance Bureau, whose untraced driver scheme compensates child victims of uninsured drivers, stipulated that a claim must be made within three years of an accident.

Mr Ryan, personal injury partner at one of the South East's leading law firms, Furley Page Solicitors, said: "This is a great victory for accident victims."

Truck firm's work pays off with Guild reward

THE Talking Truck Company, a Maidstone-based removals business employing skilled labour, has recently been awarded membership of The Guild of Master Craftsmen in recognition of the company's commitment to work with skill and integrity.

The company is now entitled to display the Guild logo at its premises, on company vehicles and on all stationery items. Membership of the Guild of Master Craftsmen offers many benefits to those able to satisfy the criteria. It is a national organisation, with members in many different trades, crafts and vocations.

In good company with free internet listing

INANUTSHELL.BIZ, the online community for independent businesses, is offering Kent companies a free listing in its new directory, a network that generates new suppliers and customers for companies in all business segments.

The site gives free access to business news, information and advice and now access to the networking opportunity of an online community.

The free listing will enable companies to promote themselves to other businesses around the country.

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 See how the face of Kent's hop industry is changing during the 21st century

Some are still more equal than others

■ BY TONY PATEY

EQUALITIES Minister Harriet Harman has unveiled wide-ranging proposals for a new Equalities Bill, but the reaction from Kent business experts seems mixed so far.

It covers issues such as the gender pay gap, ageism and positive discrimination in favour of women and ethnic minorities, but it could mean local firms trying to tread fine legal lines.

Susanna Gilmartin, partner and employment lawyer at law firm Thomson Snell and Passmore, which has offices covering the Thames Gateway and Tunbridge Wells, said Britain introduced the first race discrimination legislation in the late 1960s.

"The approach taken by such laws has been to prevent or restrict the public and particular employers from discriminating and treating people less favourably," she said.

"The culture in this country is that we are not allowed to discriminate on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion and belief and, most recently, age.

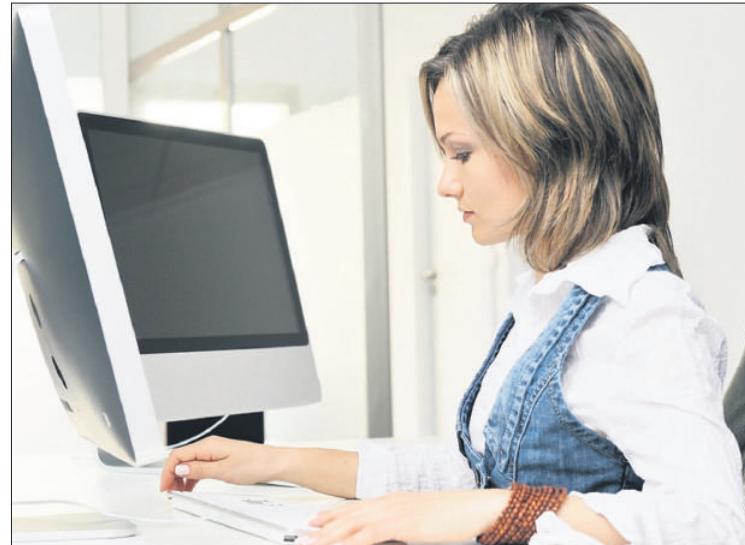
"Now Kent businesses are going to have to get their heads around positively discriminating on grounds of sex and so on when, for example, two graduates from the same college with identical diplomas and other academic results are applying for the same job, but are different in age, sex or ethnicity.

"Is this going to be a case of positively discriminating away from ability and in favour of age, sex or race?"

"Why would employers want to have the outcome based on positive discrimination when it is ability that really matters?"

"When employers are trying to tread the fine line, more legislation to define choice may prove counter-productive in the long run."

At Folkestone-based Saga, spokesman Paul



EQUAL RIGHTS: Employers need to tread carefully to comply with proposed new equality legislation

Green said most people who write to Saga Magazine complain about access to healthcare and how they are kept informed about treatment, and discrimination in access to training and job opportunities.

"In particular, many complain about the legalised discrimination that allows employers to force people to retire, even when the individual concerned wants to – and is able to – continue to work."

"As for services such as insurance, Saga, along with some other insurers, does not have upper age limits. Indeed, the oldest person for whom we have provided travel insurance went to Italy to celebrate her 100th birthday.

"We think it is wrong for insurance compa-

nies simply to refuse because of someone's age, but we can understand why they might want to do so as it is a very specialist area. Compulsion to provide cover from non-specialists will simply lead to high prices.

"Instead insurers ought to be required to direct them to an independent source of information so the customer can easily find a provider that better understands their needs and will provide cover, because of their specialism."

On equal pay for men and women, official statistics show the gender pay gap has been declining since 1997. But even after 30 years since the Equal Pay Act came into effect a gap still exists.



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Failure with the bat proves to be costly

BROADSTAIRS remain in deep trouble near the foot of the Kent League Premier Division table, after losing to title-chasing Bexley.

Broadstairs won the toss and elected to bat, but they failed to bat out their allotted overs and were dismissed for 172 after just 47 overs were bowled.

Bexley reached their target for the loss of two wickets in the 49th over.

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Former England captain Martin Corry talks about the state of Kent rugby

Town fall short despite Draper's determined hit

SANDWICH Town fell just 14 runs short of pulling off an impressive run chase of 254 in a high scoring match with Sevenoaks Vine.

The visitors won the toss and elected to bat. Opener John Bowden got Sevenoaks off to a great start by reaching his half century. However, Robert Goatham soon stopped the flurry of runs, removing Bowden for 66.

Chris Hodgson and Leon Johnson dispatched Chris Hammond, Michael Barber and Luke Blackaby shortly after, leaving Sevenoaks in a good position at 115-4.

Despite Shami Iqbal going for a duck off the bowling of Goatham, Sevenoaks continued to pile on the runs with Imaad

CRICKET

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Sayed hitting 43 and Alex Rainer a useful 55. The bowling of Craig Spanton and Sam Northeast helped the home side restrict Sevenoaks to 254-9 at the end of their 55 overs.

In reply, Sandwich started slowly, losing their two opening batsmen, Northeast and Stuart Smith, for just 29.

They picked up the pace with the middle order of Kevin Beaumont and Johnson making 35 and 51 respectively.

Top scorer David Draper (79) got them back into the game, but it was not enough with Sandwich all out for 240.



CAUGHT BEHIND: Sandwich were 14 runs from victory against Sevenoaks

Kent Cricket League Premier Division

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Sevenoaks Vine 1st XI

Sevenoaks Vine CC

	Runs	Sandwich Town
John Bowden st Wellard b Goatham	66	Sam Northeast b Rainer
Chris Hammond ct Beaumont b Hodgson	16	Stuart Smith b Day
Michael Barber b Johnson	14	Kevin Beaumont ct Gethins b Rayner
Luke Blackaby ct & b Johnson	19	Leon Johnson ct Bowden b Rainer
Shami Iqbal b Goatham	0	David Draper ct Sayeed b Day
Imaad Sayeed ct Goatham b Northgate	43	Steve Wellard ct & b Bowden
Alex Rayner ct Goatham b Northgate	55	Rhys Jones lbw b Rayner
Timothy Shaw st Wellard b Spanton	21	James Roff lbw b Bowden
James Day st Wellard b Spanton	3	Robert Goatham not out
John Gethins not out	1	Craig Spanton b Day
Christopher Rainer	1	Chris Hodgson b Rainer
Extras (8b 5lb 1w 2nb)	16	Extras (1b 4lb 6w)
Total (9 wickets, 55 overs)	254	Total (all out, 54.5 overs)

Bowlers	0	M	R	W	0	M	R	W	
James Day	0	2	37	3	Chris Rainger	135	2	51	3
Craig Spanton	13	2	76	2	John Goatham	7	1	31	0
Chris Hodgson	7	1	36	1	John Bowden	14	1	39	2
Robert Goatham	12	2	31	2	Timothy Shaw	5	0	27	0
Leon Johnson	15	4	36	2	Alex Rayner	5	0	50	2
Sam Northeast	8	0	62	2					

Kent Cricket League Division 1 2nd XI

Broadstairs 2nd XI v Hartley Country Club 2nd XI

BROADSTAIRS won the toss and put Hartley into bat, a decision they came to regret as their rivals put on 257 from 50 overs. Ian Robinson and Craig Wretham taking two wickets apiece.

The Broadstairs reply got off to a disastrous start when opener Geoff Pine was caught by Scott McKechnie off James Nash for a duck. Sam Windsor was also removed without troubling the scorers, but the lower order saved the day.

Jake Benfield top-scored with 32 as the Thanet side held on for a losing draw.

Hartley Country Club

	Runs	Hartley Country Club
Nick Leviton	0	ct Windsor b Robinson
Tom Carter	0	ct Windsor b Wretham
Patrick Underwood	0	ct Turner b Wretham
Justin Crouch	0	ct Windsor b Baxter
Daniel Stiller	0	run out
Nevil Hope	0	run out
Lewis Hickford	0	st Brian Simpson b Austin
Scott McKechnie	0	not out
Steve Barnett	0	b Robinson
Matthew Springett	0	not out
James Nash	0	did not bat
Extras (1lb 4lb 7w)	38	Extras (1lb 1lb 7w)
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	194	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)

Bowlers	0	M	R	W	0	M	R	W	
Ian Robinson	14	3	54	2	Chris Rainger	15	0	80	2
Craig Wretham	15	0	23	1	Arthur Austin	14	1	62	1
Nick Baxter	7	0	49	1	Ben Pugh	0	run out		
					Tom Doherty	0	b Hickford	32	
					Matthew Springett	0	ct Hope b Nash	24	
					James Nash	0	not out	25	
					Sam Winsor	0	run out	27	
					Chris Gethins	0	did not bat		
					Matthew Springett	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	22	
					James Nash	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	203	

Bowlers	0	M	R	W	0	M	R	W
Geoff Pine	0	ct McKechnie b Nash	0	0	Paul Doherty	0	ct Wretham b Robinson	34
Craig Wretham	0	ct & b Carter	0	0	Tom Carter	0	ct Windsor b Wretham	50
Brian Simpson	0	ct Nash b Carter	0	0	Patrick Underwood	0	ct Turner b Wretham	29
Sam Winsor	0	ct McKechnie b Springett	0	0	Justin Crouch	0	ct Windsor b Baxter	25
Nick Baxter	0	ct Barnett b Stiller	0	0	Daniel Stiller	0	run out	48
Paul Ogburn	0	run out	0	0	Nevil Hope	0	run out	17
Ben Pugh	0	b Hickford	0	0	Lewis Hickford	0	st Brian Simpson b Austin	23
Tom Doherty	0	ct Hope b Nash	0	0	Scott McKechnie	0	not out	4
Matthew Springett	0	not out	0	0	Steve Barnett	0	b Robinson	8
James Nash	0	did not bat	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	not out	0
Sam Winsor	0	did not bat	0	0	James Nash	0	did not bat	0
Chris Gethins	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	Extras (1lb 1lb 7w)	19
Matthew Springett	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	0	0	James Nash	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	257

Bowlers	0	M	R	W	0	M	R	W
Geoff Pine	0	ct McKechnie b Nash	0	0	Paul Doherty	0	ct Wretham b Robinson	34
Craig Wretham	0	ct & b Carter	0	0	Tom Carter	0	ct Windsor b Wretham	50
Brian Simpson	0	ct Nash b Carter	0	0	Patrick Underwood	0	ct Turner b Wretham	29
Sam Winsor	0	ct McKechnie b Springett	0	0	Justin Crouch	0	ct Windsor b Baxter	25
Nick Baxter	0	ct Barnett b Stiller	0	0	Daniel Stiller	0	run out	48
Paul Ogburn	0	run out	0	0	Nevil Hope	0	run out	17
Ben Pugh	0	b Hickford	0	0	Lewis Hickford	0	st Brian Simpson b Austin	23
Tom Doherty	0	ct Hope b Nash	0	0	Scott McKechnie	0	not out	4
Matthew Springett	0	not out	0	0	Steve Barnett	0	b Robinson	8
James Nash	0	run out	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	not out	0
Sam Winsor	0	did not bat	0	0	James Nash	0	did not bat	0
Chris Gethins	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	22
Matthew Springett	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	0	0	James Nash	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	203

Bowlers	0	M	R	W	0	M	R	W
Geoff Pine	0	ct McKechnie b Nash	0	0	Paul Doherty	0	ct Wretham b Robinson	34
Craig Wretham	0	ct & b Carter	0	0	Tom Carter	0	ct Windsor b Wretham	50
Brian Simpson	0	ct Nash b Carter	0	0	Patrick Underwood	0	ct Turner b Wretham	29
Sam Winsor	0	ct McKechnie b Springett	0	0	Justin Crouch	0	ct Windsor b Baxter	25
Nick Baxter	0	ct Barnett b Stiller	0	0	Daniel Stiller	0	run out	48
Paul Ogburn	0	run out	0	0	Nevil Hope	0	run out	17
Ben Pugh	0	b Hickford	0	0	Lewis Hickford	0	st Brian Simpson b Austin	23
Tom Doherty	0	ct Hope b Nash	0	0	Scott McKechnie	0	not out	4
Matthew Springett	0	not out	0	0	Steve Barnett	0	b Robinson	8
James Nash	0	run out	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	not out	0
Sam Winsor	0	did not bat	0	0	James Nash	0	did not bat	0
Chris Gethins	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	0	0	Matthew Springett	0	Extras (4b 3lb 14w 1nb)	22
Matthew Springett	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	0	0	James Nash	0	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	203

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Sport's elite making waves in competition

WATER SKIING

BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

THE European Water Ski Racing Championships got under way off the coast of Thanet at the weekend and the action continues tomorrow.

The competition is one of the most prestigious in the sport and features eight different categories, from juniors all the way up to elite adults.

Despite the unforgiving weather, thousands were expected to watch the racing, which is taking place on a two-kilometre loop.

The start line is near the Royal Marina and competitors will follow a course that hugs the coastline along Ramsgate Main Sands before turning back towards the marina.

Barry Frame, the race co-ordinator for the championships, said he was delighted with the number of competitors they had attracted to the biennial event.

Frame told Yourthanet: "It's probably bigger than the world championships, it has attracted phenomenal interest with 87 entrants across all the categories."

He also paid tribute to the local authorities for their role in making the event happen.

"The harbourmaster and council have been absolutely superb, we want to give Ramsgate the show it deserves," he said.

Entries have come from across Europe and there will also be guests from Australia and the United States taking part.



Picture KEITH SLATER

MAKING WAVES: Racing at the European Water Ski Racing Championships continues this week off Ramsgate's coast

Frame is also due to compete and is set to pilot his grandson Jake in the Euro Kid B category.

With six years' experience under his belt already, the 14-year-old is a rising star and is undaunted by competing against boys three years older than him.

Earlier this month he managed one of his most impressive results when he finished sec-

ond in the world-renowned Diamond Race in Belgium.

The opening ceremony was held on Saturday, before the racing began 24 hours later.

Further events were held on yesterday and more are scheduled for tomorrow before the championships conclude with the final rounds in all categories on Saturday.

Rams and Gate find who is up for the cup

FOOTBALL

THANET'S sides will have mixed feelings after the draws for this year's FA competitions were made.

Margate have an away game against lower level opposition in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup, when they play either Camberley, Lordswood or Worthing on September 13, depending on the results from the two preliminary rounds.

In the FA Trophy, Barry Ashby's side will host Ryman Premier Division rivals Hendon at Hartsdown Park on October 18, while the youth team have an away tie at Sussex outfit Ringmer in the FA Youth Cup, on a date to be confirmed.

Margate's best FA cup performance in recent seasons came in November 1997, when Chris Kinneir's side took on a Fulham side managed by Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins, and owned by Mohammed Al Fayed.

In a game televised live on Sky Sports, the Gate put up a respectable performance before losing 2-1.

Ramsgate's FA Cup opponents are similarly uncertain, with the Southwood side facing a trip



Picture GOR KROPON

ALL-ACTION: Margate and Ramsgate are both hoping for a lucrative cup run

to either Surrey side Ash United or former Kent League rivals Sevenoaks Town or Faversham Town.

The Rams' reached the first round proper of the FA Cup in the 2005/2006 season, when they went on a run that saw them dispose of Southall, Walton & Hersham and Cirencester, before losing 2-0 to Nuneaton Borough, then a Conference side.

Arguably the toughest draw for the Thanet sides sees Jim Ward's troops travel to Tonbridge in the first qualifying round of the FA Trophy.

Ward looks to run the rule over French player

FOOTBALL

STEVE Butler, back with Ramsgate after a spell with Stevenage Borough, has been conducting pre-season training at Southwood.

Manager Jim Ward told the club's website: "We started training last Saturday with 22 of the first team squad and Steve Butler's putting them through their paces.

"Everything's going to plan at the moment.

"The four sessions that we've had have been good – Mark Harrop took last Saturday and Butler's taken Tuesday, Thursday and today. It's been stamina work, for the legs and chest.

"No ball work, just a couple of hours of good, hard running."

Former Watford striker Butler helped out at Southwood last season before rejoining his former Hull City and Gillingham colleague Peter Taylor at Stevenage. Taylor subsequently left to join Wycombe.

Ward is still running his eye over a number of players.

"On Tuesday night we have our first match, behind closed doors, with possibles against probables,"



BACK IN TRAINING: Ramsgate's Jimmy Ward is excited by his team's potential

he said. "I feel a bit excited when I sit down and write possible teams and starting XIs – it's amazing the players that are being left out. I think we'll be all right."

Ramsgate's net is cast so wide now that Ward is taking a look at a French player, known only as Yacine.

Ward said. "How he's ended up at Ramsgate I'm not quite sure, but he has."

"He's got a great touch, got great movement, but let's see if he can take the physical side of it because it is a physical league."

CYCLING



CROWD-PLEASER: Scene from last year's Tour in Kent

Cycling still feeling benefit of Le Tour's visit through Kent

TWELVE months ago two million people flanked roadsides across Kent as the county played host to one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

It was only the Tour de France's third visit to Britain in the event's 104-year history and came the day after London began the Tour by hosting the Prologue time trial.

With the 126-mile route bathed in July sunshine, the crowds cheered on a long breakaway by British rider David Millar before Australian Robbie McEwen sprinted to win the stage in Canterbury.

After the race, Tour director Christian Prudhomme said: "The enormous crowds in Kent have taken our breath away. The Tour has been staggered by the warm reception we have been given by the British public."

The Tour would later become embroiled in several drugs scandals, but at the time there was little doubt the event had been a huge sporting success for Kent.

Stronger

The 2008 edition of the world's most prestigious road race started in Brittany last weekend, but a year on from its brief rendezvous in southern England the impact is still being felt in Kent.

Rod Kennison was among the thousands of amateur cyclists to ride the course a week before the Tour. As president of Medway Velo he has seen the effects first hand.

He said: "It has generated a terrific amount of interest. Our club has doubled in size, we have probably got 30-40 new members because of the race. We had interest straight after the race, a really good response. We are getting stronger and stronger."

Ian Ferrell, chairman of VC Deal, agrees: "There was such a buzz around last year, it really did bring top level cycling to the people. Nationally cycling is quite strong, especially since the British team did so well at the World Championships. With the Olympics as well I think it's all part of a whole process where we advertise the sport."

The Tour will go through Italy later this month before finishing in Paris on July 27.

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